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Arab tripartite talks in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — The foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia Monday began talks on the Gulf crisis and U.S. President George Bush's offer for dialogue with Iraq. It was the third meeting in recent weeks of Syria's Farouq Al Sharaa, Saudi Arabia's Prince Saud Al Faisal and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak. They held talks in Damascus last month. The three countries have led Arab opposition to Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Egypt and Syria have contributed troops and equipment to the U.S.-led multinational forces arrayed against Iraq in Saudi Arabia.

Christian leaders meet in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — Christian leaders from Iraq and other Middle East countries meeting in Baghdad Monday urged Christians worldwide to encourage efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. Archbishop Rafael I. Badawid, the patriarch of the Chaldean Church in Iraq, said Christians worldwide are duty bound to work to avert a war in the region. "I appeal wholeheartedly to all my brothers in Christianity to work hand-in-hand with all other people to support peace with love and justice," he said.

Britain: U.S.-Iraq talks must not include Palestine

LONDON (R) — Britain Monday welcomed an offer by U.S. President George Bush to hold talks with Iraq but said there could be no linkage with the Palestinian question. A Foreign Office statement said United Nations resolutions calling on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait were not negotiable and rejected Iraqi demands that talks include other Middle East issues, such as the Palestinian question. "As President Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker have made clear, the purpose is not to negotiate with Iraq," Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg told parliament. "It is rather to leave the Iraqi leadership in no doubt as to the determination of the international community to see Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, in accordance with the requirements laid down by the U.N."

Iraq says U.S. expels INA correspondent

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday the United States had expelled a correspondent of its official news agency INA. The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya identified the correspondent as Hisham Ali Jawad, describing him as the only Iraqi reporter in the United States. It said he had been expelled despite the fact that Iraq had allowed visits by more than 1,700 foreign correspondents, including hundreds of Americans covering the Gulf crisis.

Mubarak receives French award

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak Monday received a French award for promoting democracy and peace. Mubarak received the Louise Michel Prize from the French Centre for Political and Social Studies. French Senator Alain Poirer, honorary chairman of the centre, said the prize was awarded for Mubarak's contribution to promoting democracy and his respect for human rights in Egypt.

Public sector strike ends in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Histadrut labour federation ended a two-day strike in the public sector Monday after winning concessions over wage cuts and taxes. The walkout by 500,000 state workers closed banks and stock markets and affected air and sea ports. The government, struggling to absorb a flood of Soviet immigrants, had planned to reduce the minimum wage by about a fifth to \$400 a month and introduce new taxes, including a 20 per cent levy on pension benefits.

King meets Kuwaiti team, says he is optimistic of political solution in Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received at the Royal Court a Kuwaiti popular delegation currently visiting Jordan as part of a tour of several Arab countries.



King Hussein briefed the delegation on Jordan's efforts before and after the start of the Gulf crisis to reach a political settlement of the conflict within an Arab context and to avoid any escalation of the crisis that will lead to complicating it and opening the door for foreign intervention. The King said he was optimistic that a political solution to the crisis could be reached. He voiced confidence that the Arabs are capable of containing all their disagreements for the good of the Arab Nation and future generations. The delegation briefed King Hussein on the aims of its tour and emphasised that the Kuwaiti people are confident in King Hussein's honest efforts to solve the crisis, affirming that these efforts stem from the King's keenness on the future of the Arab Nation. The Kuwaiti delegation lauded King Hussein's efforts and said

that there was a misunderstanding of Jordan's stand on the Gulf crisis. The delegation affirmed that the Kuwaiti people and most Kuwaiti officials are not responsible for this misunderstanding. The delegation also stressed the Kuwaiti people's rejection of any military solution to the crisis, because "such a solution will be catastrophic not only to Iraq and Kuwait, but also to the Arab World as a whole."

Kuwaitis blame Iraq for Western intervention in Gulf

By Sami Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A spokesman for a visiting popular Kuwaiti delegation Monday blamed Iraq for the Western intervention in the Gulf, saying that the U.S. had found "the proper excuse" for their presence in the region.

Ahmad Rab'i, a former Kuwaiti parliamentarian, held Iraq and its takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2 responsible for the foreign presence in the region.

"The important question here is 'who is responsible for the foreign presence?' The U.S. was looking for an excuse for this presence and found the proper one with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait to intervene in this manner," Rab'i said. In an interview with the Jordan Times, he stressed that he rejected the foreign intervention "in the Gulf crisis in general."

"We cannot be against foreign presence and at the same time with the Iraqi occupation," he said. "The two issues must be linked clearly."

Rab'i did not elaborate, but stressed that the U.S. had strategic interests in the Gulf, which holds over 60 per cent of all known oil reserves in the world.

The seven-member Kuwaiti delegation — one of 14 similar teams touring the world — arrived in Amman Saturday. (Continued on page 5)

Jordanian, Kuwaiti popular perceptions wide apart on crisis

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — A Kuwaiti bid — the first of its kind since the eruption of the Gulf crisis — to win over Jordanian public opinion has underscored the gulf between the Jordanian popular attitude and the Kuwaiti approach to the problem.

Several meetings between an unofficial Kuwaiti delegation, which arrived here Saturday, and Jordanians indicate that there are important differences in priorities and perceptions between the two.

From the Kuwaiti point of view, an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is the key to a solution and an objective in itself. For the majority of Jordanian

groups, however, an acceptable settlement should also be in addition to an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait — guarantee Iraqi security and Arab sovereignty and independence from what is viewed as "American hegemony."

Many Jordanians who met with the Kuwaiti delegation said a protracted standoff with Iraq would be costly. Baghdad Radio quoted Health Minister Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed as saying a lack of powdered milk contributed to the deterioration of the children's health. Saeed said that "1,416 children

under the age of five years have died in recent months because of the sanctions imposed on medicines for Iraq."

"The lack of necessary medicines to continue treatment for the children caused the deterioration of their health conditions..." (Continued on page 5)

Moscow: Iraq must make next move in Gulf crisis

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union Monday welcomed an initiative from U.S. President George Bush to hold talks with Iraq and said it was up to Baghdad to make the next move.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said a U.N. Security Council resolution authorising the use of force to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait was a step forward in the quest for a peaceful solution. The statement was issued the same day an influential group of hardline Soviet deputies called on President Mikhail Gorbachev to address parliament on the Gulf crisis.

"The spirit and letter of the resolution gives a realistic chance for the prevention of the very worst turn of events... a military explosion," said the statement read by Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin.

"The decision of the Security Council spells out a temporary opening, in which it is possible and necessary to find a peaceful, political outcome to the conflict. Everything must be done so this chance is not squandered."

"A dialogue between the USA and Iraq would have an important significance for finding practical approaches to unblocking the extremely dangerous situation in the Persian Gulf," it said. (Continued on page 5)

King, Yemeni leader discuss latest developments in Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein held a meeting with Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh, who arrived in Amman earlier in the day for talks on ways to solve the Gulf crisis.

King Hussein and Beedh had a general review of the Gulf crisis and the latest development in the region.

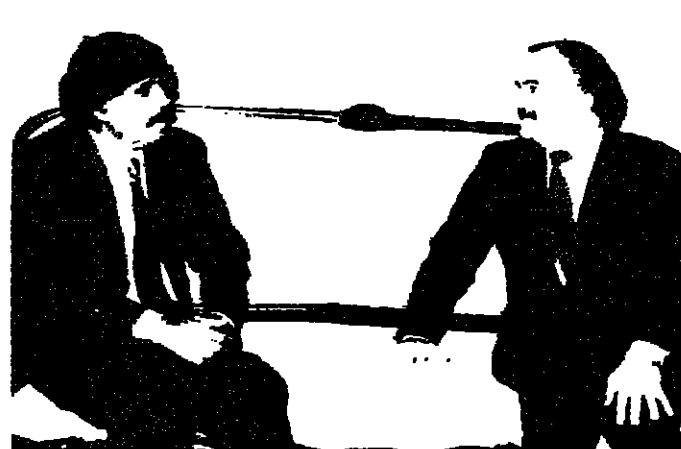
They also exchanged views on ways to resolve the crisis peacefully and affirmed the need to exert every possible effort at the Arab and international levels to resolve the crisis peacefully.

The King and the Yemeni official also reviewed bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Oqasm and Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin.

The meeting was attended on the Yemeni side by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani and the Yemeni ambassador to Jordan.

Beedh was received in the airport upon arrival by Prince Hassan, Badran, the Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zaid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday receives Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh (Petra photo)

Masadeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Oqasm, Minister of Information Izzeddin, senior government officials and the Yemeni ambassador to Amman.

Beedh told the reporters at the airport that his visit comes at a time when the Arab Nation is passing through a critical stage as a result of developments in the Gulf crisis.

The Yemeni official lauded King Hussein's efforts to solve the crisis peacefully.

"King Hussein did not hesitate since the beginning of the crisis to look for a peaceful solution," he said. He said he was looking forward

Israelis seal off W. Bank homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers cemented shut the homes of three Palestinian teenagers arrested in a weekend stabbing attack on a Tel Aviv bus in which an Israeli and one of the assailants were killed, the army said Monday.

Muslim fundamentalist leaders of the Palestinian uprising put out leaflets in praise of the stabbings. The Jihad Islami faction vowed "we will continue our revolution with knives." The Hamas movement urged "using all means" to escalate attacks on Israelis.

The unified leadership of the uprising — the dominant group in the Israeli-occupied territories — also called for escalation of the uprising as it enters its fourth year on Dec. 9.

"We need to develop the intifada into a higher stage using all means of struggle," said a leaflet distributed Sunday to residents of the occupied West Bank.

"Experience of the last few months has shown that as long as the intifada continues and pressure on the people increases, our determination for struggle until victory also rises," it said.

Each month the leadership distributes a new leaflet with guidelines to keep the intifada alive. (Continued on page 2)

Pope may visit Iraq

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Spanish peace mission has secured Iraqi agreement for a meeting between President Saddam Hussein and U.S. President George Bush in the presence of Pope John Paul, a Spanish member of the European Parliament said Monday.

The Iraqi government has also invited the pontiff to visit Baghdad, and there are "positive indications" that the Holy See is responding favourably to the invitation, said Jose Ruiz Mateos y Pimentel de Gejanda.

It was not immediately possible to confirm the report. Pimentel de Gejanda, who flew to Amman from Baghdad after a three-week stay in the Iraqi capital, told the Jordan Times at Amman airport that he was flying to Rome Tuesday for further contacts with the Vatican on the initiative.

"If there is one man in the world who can resolve the Gulf crisis and pave the way for negotiations, then it is the Pope," said Pimentel de Gejanda, head of the Spanish Alienda Democratica Europa Party.

Asked whether he had any indication that the Pope was interested in a visit to Baghdad, the politician said: "Oh yes, we have very good indications and contacts are under way between the Iraqi government and the Vatican."

"There are several formulas and ideas and we are working on them," he added and noted that Mother Teresa, the world-renowned Catholic relief worker and Nobel Peace Prize winner, was due in Baghdad this week.

Pimentel de Gejanda said the venue of the suggested Bush-Pope-Saddam meeting "is not important as long as it takes place... it could be aboard a ship, an island, anywhere." He implied that it was up to the Pope to convince Bush into attending.

"The Pope is ready to go to any place in the world for the meeting," he said. "After all, the ultimate objective is to avoid a terrible, catastrophic war."

The Spanish politician said he would be working in coordination with an Iraqi delegation which was accompanying him to Rome. The Iraqi mission in Rome had already established contact with the Holy See, he added.

No member of the Iraqi delegation accompanying the European Parliamentarian was available for comment. It was the first time that any

Jordan to switch banknotes

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has plans to change the current banknotes in circulation since 1975 into a new set of paper money. This was just reported in "Jordan Economic Monitor" a monthly news letter published by Jordan Times columnist and economic consultant Dr. Fahed Faneek. The newsletter specialises in insider information and analysis of the Jordanian economy.

Two reasons were given for the switch in currency. (1) The current banknotes were put in circulation 15 years ago, and therefore it is time to upgrade the Jordanian banknotes to match

the state of the art. (2) The Jordanian Security apparatus and the Central Bank have determined that the Israeli authorities are involved in producing advanced counterfeit in substantial amounts. The new banknotes will be smaller in size and more difficult to forge.

The Monitor also said that Jordanian banknotes had been subjected to forgery on several occasions, whether in their present forms and designs which were put in circulation in 1975-1976, or in their previous forms which were withdrawn from circulation subsequently.

The earlier forgeries of the seventies were exclusively in the JD-10 denomination, which was then the highest denomination.

Kohl takes on stronger liberals

BONN (Agencies) — With his historic unity election won, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl turned Monday to bargaining over a new government with his strengthened, more self-confident liberal coalition partners.

Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Free Democrats (FDP) led by popular Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher held separate strategy sessions to analyse their victory in Sunday's polls, the first free all-German election since 1932.

Although it won the most votes, the CDU's 43.8 per cent score was slightly under its 1987 West German poll result while the FDP — the "tail that wags the dog" in Bonn — jumped to 11 per cent from 9.1 last time.

The coalition's clear sweep left

the united Germany in the hands of strongly Western-dominated parties. Groups clearly linked to the poor east won only 25 of the 662 seats in the Bonn-based Bundestag (lower house).

Although he emerged triumphant, Kohl received bad news about his plans to borrow huge sums of money to finance German unification.

The day began with Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann quitting the cabinet amid what German television claimed was growing criticism over Haussmann's handling of the economy. A short while later, Stern magazine released an interview with central bank chief Karl Otto Pöhl, who criticised Kohl's plans to borrow up to 150 billion marks (\$100 billion) next year to finance unification.

Pöhl, whose comments were confirmed by the Bundesbank's press office, said the proposed amount was too high. Instead, he demanded greater spending cuts.

Big losers in Sunday's elections were the leftist Social Democrats, the main opposition party, and the far-left Greens. Both parties had criticised Kohl's rapid pace of unification and accused his Christian Democrats of underplaying the cost of bringing the east up to the standard of the west.

The Greens, Europe's most-established ecology movement, lost most of its seats in parliament, receiving only 3.9 per cent of the vote in western Germany. The Social Democrats, led by Oskar Lafontaine, polled 33.5 per cent.

Army unites Lebanese capital

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Thousands of Lebanese troops took control of a militia-free Beirut Monday, reuniting the capital under President Elias Hrawi after 15 years of civil war.

The troops moved in after more than 1,500 gunmen of the hardline Lebanese Forces (LF) militia quit their last Beirut stronghold.

"It's wonderful," said Tony Khoury, 27, as troops pushed into east Beirut. "We could not hope for anything better. We all just want to live in peace."

Rice-throwing civilians greeted soldiers, tanks and troop carriers which moved into the war-ravaged parts of Beirut and suburbs to the north, south and east. "We have gone back 15 years. It is unbelievable... I hope the war is over," said jubilant east Beirut resident Fadi Doummir.

The reunification of Beirut

under government control left Nicosia, Cyprus, as the only divided capital in the world.

The restitution of state authority is seen as a major achievement in the government's efforts to end the civil strife that has left more than 150,000 people dead.

The first phase of the plan went into effect with the completion earlier in the day of the withdrawal of all the warring militias from the "greater Beirut" area.

This extends along a 27-kilometre coastal strip between the Dog River in the north and the Damour River in the south. The army started moving in after the 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces pulled out of the Christian, east sector, of the capital to positions in the Christian hinterland of Kesrouan province, north of greater Beirut.

The last remaining 2,000 Lebanese Forces fighters rumoured out of the neighbourhoods of Ashrafieh, Karantina and Nabaa in a convoy of 400 military vehicles, including 30 tanks decorated with coloured portraits of LF leader Samir Geagea and the militia's flag of a green cedar tree on a white background.

Some of the trucks towed Soviet-made howitzers and twin-barrelled anti-aircraft guns. The completion of the withdrawal followed the evacuation of 1,600 tons of ammunition over the previous week.

"Today we complete our withdrawal from greater Beirut which will come under the protection of the Lebanese army. We hope the army will soon be in control throughout the nation," said the militia's Voice of Free Lebanon radio.

Army troops also started deploying in the western and southern sectors of the capital.

Beyond Gulf crisis, U.S. faces long-term problem

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

WASHINGTON — No matter how the conflict in the Gulf is resolved, the United States is certain to face vexing long-term problems in the Middle East and seasoned analysts predict years of instability in the region.

Winning a war against Iraq would strengthen two regional powers — Syria and Iran — who are inherently hostile to the United States.

Any negotiated settlement that would leave the Iraqi power structure intact, experts say, would allow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to portray himself as the man who made U.S. President George Bush blink, thus bolstering his claim to leadership of the Arab masses.

In an astonishing about-face, Bush announced Friday he would send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad for direct talks with Saddam on the crisis. Previously, Washington had ruled out face-to-face meetings as long as Iraq occupied Kuwait.

As the Bush administration pondered its options since Aug. 2, experts say, little attention has been paid to the long-term implications of U.S. actions, their impact on the regional balance of power, and the role Washington wants to play once the crisis is over.

"They (the administration) do not appear to have thought it through," said Yehia Sadowski, a Middle East expert at the Washington-based Brookings Institution. "They have been busy with short-term crisis management."

Washington's dilemma was brought into sharp focus by hearings on the Gulf crisis before the Senate Armed Services Committee which opened as the United States won United Nations blessing to go to war with Iraq if it refused to give up Kuwait by Jan. 15.

Crushing Iraq by military force, the committee was told, would destabilise the Middle East, unless anti-American sentiment throughout the region, and require a long-term U.S. military presence.

In turn, if Saddam would continue in power as a result of a negotiated withdrawal, the

United States would lose credibility in the eyes of its closest Arab allies and its strategic partner in the Middle East, Israel.

"Saddam Hussein will continue to be a destabilising force," former Defence Secretary James Schlesinger told the Senate committee. But he added that if Saddam were removed, the region would not be stable either.

"The sight of the United States inflicting a devastating defeat on Arab country... may result in enmity directed at the United States for an extended period among the public of some of the (Arab) nations now allied to us," he said.

Schlesinger and other witnesses recalled that the United States tilted towards Iraq in its war with Iran to prevent the Iranian government of Ayatollah Khomeini from dominating the Middle East.

If Iraq were defeated in a war with the United States, he

said General William Odom, former head of National Security Agency.

"Then the question becomes how do we restore a stable regime in Iraq that would stand off those two opponents... sponsoring the construction of a new regime... would fall to us (Americans)."

That is an undesirable option, most experts on the region believe, but leaving a large U.S. military force in Saudi Arabia for long while economic sanctions against Iraq continue appears almost as undesirable.

Analysts and officials familiar with Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, say that the huge U.S. presence has already begun to hasten a budding trend towards a more secular society and greater political participation in a country run by a close-knit royal family.

Such pressures could eventually result in the collapse of family rule in Saudi Arabia, with unpredictable consequences.

Asked whether he could visualise an end to the Gulf crisis, either by force or negotiation, which would leave the United States looking good in the Middle East, the Brookings's Sadowski's answer was categorical: "No."

Kissinger's view

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Sunday U.S.-Iraq talks might damage the unity of the anti-Iraq coalition.

Appearing on U.S. television, Kissinger said Bush's offer to send Baker for talks with Saddam would also encourage other nations to talk separately to Iraq.

"I gag at the idea of the secretary of state arriving in a state that is holding a thousand American hostages, that has looted and raped a neighbouring country, which has disobeyed 12 U.N. resolutions that we have sponsored, and against which we have deployed so many forces," said Kissinger, who was the Vietnam war-era secretary of state in the administration of President Richard Nixon.

"There must be another way of conducting a negotiation with it than this way," Kissinger said.

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said, Iran would emerge as the dominant regional power. Syria, now a tactical ally in the anti-Iraq coalition, would strive for the same role.

Neither the Iranian leadership nor Syria's President Hafez Al Assad, for years a chief target of U.S. enmity, had long-term policy aims compatible with those of Washington.

Some analysts say that in Iraq itself, the removal of Saddam would bring to the fore forces implacably hostile to the United States.

"The country's three main opposition forces are united in deep hatred of the United States," said Rashid Khalidi of the University of Chicago's Centre for Middle Eastern studies.

He referred to the Iraqi Communist Party, Al Dawa, a clandestine organisation of Shi'ite Muslims, and Kurdish opposition groups who feel the United States betrayed them by withdrawing support in the mid-1970s.

"After a successful destruction of the Iraqi army we might find ourselves defending Iraqi territory against Syrian and Iranian territorial ambitions,"

meanwhile, called a general strike in the nearby town of Qalqilya in solidarity with Dawlat, the slain attacker.

According to Arab reports, Dawlat was jailed for six months two years ago for on charges of activism with the Fatah movement. He was also reportedly wounded in the leg a year ago in a clash with soldiers.

Israeli reports stressed that the three Palestinians had no previous criminal or guerrilla records.

The Maariv daily wrote in a front-page commentary that the suspects appeared to typify a new generation of activists weary of stone-throwing clashes with soldiers in which Arabs often are shot.

Left-wing legislator Haim Oron said that the continued bloodletting showed the need for a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Every incident proves that only a political process can get us out of this bloody circle," Oron said, adding that calls for vengeance would only inflame the situation.

Israelis seal off homes

(Continued from page 1)

The unified leadership leaflet also praised the recent spate of attacks inside Israel and along its borders which have killed or injured several Israeli civilians and soldiers.

The leaflet called the Egyptian border guard who killed four Israelis and wounded 25 on a road near the Red Sea town Eilat on Nov. 25, a hero of Palestine.

"Greetings to our people... and heroes of the latest suicide missions in Lebanon and Palestine," said the closing statement.

Police announced they would tighten controls on Palestinians entering Israel in the wake of Sunday's attack.

Radio stations reported increased checks Monday morning on Palestinian-owned vehicles entering the Tel Aviv area from the occupied West Bank.

In the attack Sunday three Palestinian youths from the West Bank boarded a bus on a busy street and later stood up and killed four passengers.

A 24-year-old Israeli later died

of throat and chest wounds. Three other Israeli passengers were also wounded.

A police demolitions expert who helped overtake the attackers on the bus, shot and killed one of them, Jafaar Omar Fares Dawlat, 17, as the youth brandished a knife at him.

The other two assailants were injured. One was shot in the hand, and the other was beaten by passersby, Israeli reports said. They were later identified as Mohammad Abdul Majid Sawalha, 19, and Munir Hussein Ahmad Sawalha, 17.

Soldiers sealed the home of Dawlat's family in the area of Nabulus and the two Sawalha family houses in nearby Azmut Monday morning, the army said.

Army radio noted the sealings, done routinely to the homes of activists, was carried out more quickly this time to avoid giving the families time to appeal to the supreme court.

Since the three suspects were all from large families, the sealing of the houses put 37 people out on the street.

Muslim fundamentalists,



Afghan Mujahideen with a captured government helicopter. Apart from an occasional burst of attacks the rebel drive against Kabul has lost its momentum.

Afghan war — nobody is the winner

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — The war in Afghanistan has been a costly stalemate, a political, religious and military struggle that has failed to produce a clear victory for anyone.

The war began in 1978 when the Communist government in Kabul tried to impose its ideas on the largely rural, Muslim people with age-old tribal traditions.

It became a test of atheism against devout Islam and a showdown between the superpowers and their surrogates. As many as a dozen foreign countries have played some role in the conflict. The bloodiest and costliest of the 1980s.

The Soviet-backed government won the cities; the U.S.-supported guerrillas got the countryside. And everywhere the Afghans lost — their families, their homes, their livelihoods.

The fighting rained massive

destruction on an impoverished but proud nation, killed or forced into exile one-third of the pre-war population of 15 million and left much of the country severely fragmented and under the control of warlords who answer to no one.

The final chapter, still to be written, will likely show the future of Afghanistan ultimately must be decided by the Afghans themselves.

Diplomats in Pakistan frequently compare the superpowers' entanglement in the 12-year-old war to Vietnam — it was easy to get in, hard to get out.

After Moscow withdrew its troops in February 1989, the guerrillas tried to switch from their hit-and-run attacks to conventional assault. They were no match for the well-trained and well-equipped troops loyal to President Najibullah.

With a military victory by either side increasingly unlikely, Moscow and Washington called for a political solution. But the superpowers have encountered stumbling blocks over who will assume power and when the weapons supply will stop.

Their clients have drafted and periodically revised proposals that they confidently assure will restore peace to their war-weary country. Each has turned thumbs down on the other's plan.

One obstacle has been the internal struggles within the ruling Hezb-e-Watan (Party of the Homeland), which until this year was known as the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The party has been beset off and on by sometimes violent struggles between the Khalq wing that dominates the military, and the urban Parcham wing.

Like the ruling party in Kabul, the guerrillas also have suffered from a lack of unity.

The seven main guerrilla groups based in Pakistan formed a shaky government-in-exile that they hailed as the alternative to Najibullah. But the guerrilla leaders had wide differences in platforms and the government-in-exile has remained ineffective, divided by personal ambitions and greed of money and power.

"The only way out of this mess is for a neutral government with full international backing. Otherwise there will be chaos, anarchy and bloodshed," said Azim Nasser-Zia, spokesman for the moderate National Islamic Front.

"Afghanistan is becoming more and more fragmented. The disintegration of the country is in the process and unfortunately no one seems to be able to do anything about it," he said.

Baghdad media say Moscow was bribed

BAGHDAD (AP) — Two leading newspapers bitterly criticised the Soviet Union Monday renewing accusations that Moscow, once Iraq's main ally, was "bribed" to side with Washington in the Gulf crisis.

The English-language Baghdad Observer said Moscow received \$4 billion in return for a vote in favour of a U.N. Security Council resolution which authorised military action against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

"The price of the Soviet 'yes' was \$4 billion paid by Saudi Arabia on Washington's behalf," the newspaper said.

The army newspaper Al Qadisiyah, also echoing an Iraqi government claim that Moscow was "bribed," said in a front-page editorial that it felt "damn sorry for the Soviet Union."

"It would be better to see Stalin to power than (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev," it said.

In Moscow, officials have denied that the Kremlin had received money from Gulf countries since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

They said Kuwait granted Moscow a \$1 billion loan before Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of the emirate. But they noted that negotiations are under way for another \$4 billion to be paid by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Iraq's relations with the Soviet

Union, its main arms supplier during the 1980-88 Gulf war against Iran, have deteriorated since the invasion of Kuwait. Moscow has backed all 12 U.N. Security Council resolutions against Iraq, including the last one on Thursday which contained the ultimatum.

The anti-Soviet campaign coincided with a visit by a Soviet envoy who is seeking the release of Soviet citizens, mainly oil specialists and technicians, in Iraq.

Sarkis Arkilian, an Oil Ministry official, discussed the issue with Hussein Kamel Hassan, Iraq's acting oil minister, Sunday.

Iraq has blamed "misunderstandings and bureaucracy" for the delays in evacuating the Soviets who remained in Iraq.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze declared Thursday at the United Nations headquarters that Moscow "will not hesitate to use force" to protect the estimated 3,000 Soviet citizens still in Iraq.

Baghdad reacted sharply to that statement, calling it provocative.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday that Shevardnadze "seems to be looking for a pretext to send troops to the region," and warned the Kremlin to "go no further than it has gone so far."

The statement made no overt threat against the Soviets in Iraq, noting they "enjoy full care and security."

Gulf crisis boosts Saudi-Soviet ties

RIYADH (AP) — The Soviet Union, its relations with Saudi Arabia blossoming because of the Gulf crisis, is sending a large delegation to Riyadh this month to look for embassy premises and hold talks on a badly needed loan, official sources said Sunday.

A Saudi delegation led by the Foreign Ministry undersecretary for financial and administrative affairs, Mohammad Hussein Abdul Wali, is shopping in Moscow for Saudi embassy premises.

The sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

It is less than three months since Saudi Arabia dropped its reserve of half a century and reestablished relations with Moscow broken off by Josef Stalin in 1932.

The two powers have much at stake in the swift development of those ties.

The Saudis will insure Soviet support for the anti-Iraqi front and Soviet pressure on Iraq. The Soviets will count on the riches of the oil-rich Arab kingdom, especially needed because of their dire economic straits.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, a sparing visitor to Moscow over the years, was in Moscow in the crucial days ahead of the U.N. Security Council resolution approved Thursday to muster more coordination in the mounting diplomatic and military pressure on Iraq.

But he took along Finance

Minister Mohammad Abul Khalil as reports mushroomed about a multibillion-dollar Saudi loan to the Soviet Union, and an even heftier assistance from the six states forming the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The reports mentioned loans of between \$1 billion and \$4.5 billion from Saudi Arabia alone.

The GCC states would provide at least \$6 billion in the form of soft loans as well as joint projects.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi and GCC officials were not willing to confirm the amounts involved, saying they would have to await the outcome of the GCC meetings later this month as the alliance gears for its annual summit.

The rulers of the six countries normally have to ratify major collective decisions at the summit.

Kuwait has had relations with Moscow since shortly after it gained independence from Britain in 1961. For years it tried in vain to press its conservative Arab neighbours to do likewise.

Under pressure of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, Oman and the United Arab Emirates established ties with the Soviet Union, as well as with China and Eastern European countries in the early 1980s.

Israel jails 12 for 30 years for foiled Tel Aviv attack

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli military court jailed 12 Arabs for 30 years each on Monday for a foiled seaborne raid in May that prompted Washington to sever contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israel killed four Palestinians and captured 12 in the attempted speedboat raid on beaches near Tel Aviv.

The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) faction led by Abu Abbas was behind the assault, which the Israeli army said was launched from Libya.

It prompted the United States to break off its 19-month dialogue with the PLO which had resumed after Chairman Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism in December 1988.

The three judges offered the defendants a chance to speak before sentencing but then stalked out of the courtroom when the group's commander, 20-year-old Ahmad Khalil Al Wazir, tried to make a political statement.

"A Palestinian state will arise. We are the front for the liberation of Palestine. We fight for the people of Palestine," he said in Arabic.

Some defendants applauded Wazir, including Ziad Al Alami who had repudiated the PLF after his capture.

U.S. President George Bush condemned attacks on civilians but refused specifically to condemn the PLF assault, suggesting it believed the guerrillas intended to hit military targets.

The men, aged between 20 and 30, were convicted last month of membership in a "terrorist" group, illegal possession of arms and attempted murder.

The indictment said they planned to attack the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv and kill as many people as possible.

No Israelis were killed. The Lod court rejected prosecution demands for life sentences. Two Israeli Arab defence attorneys argued for leniency on grounds that no one was killed and the guerrillas surrendered without much resistance.

The PLF, whose leader Abu Abbas is one of 15 members of the PLO Executive Committee, said it planned the attack to avenge the killing of seven Palestinian workers by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv earlier in May.

The guerrillas later flashed a V-for-victory sign as they were ushered outside back to jail, and a policeman was seen trying to push one of their hands down.

The army later announced the capture of two Muslim fundamentalist Palestinian groups in the West Bank.

One group, of the Hamas faction based in Ramallah, is suspected of a July 28 bombing on a Tel Aviv beach that killed Marine Kimmelman, 17, a tourist from Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, the army said. No other details were given.

Israeli-backed militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) killed five guerrillas Monday in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. SLA-run radio said.

The Voice of the South said the guerrillas were killed during an attack on an SLA post at the village of Shoumariyeh. It said the fighting involved heavy machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
15:50 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:45 Programme review
16:50 News in Arabic
16:55 News in Arabic
17:10 Programme review
17:15 Local programme
17:20 News Summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Cartoons
18:10 L'ecole des fars
18:15 News in French
18:20 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
18:25 News in Hebrew
18:30 News in Arabic
18:35 Charles in Charge
18:40 Documentary "New World Order"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Our House

PRAYER TIMES

04:53 Fajr
05:15 Sunrise
11:26 Dhuhr
14:13 Asr
16:36 Maghrib
17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swellish Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785, 685726.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglophone Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assiout International Church Tel. 683526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and windy with easterly moderate. In Amman, it will be cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakher Bilbisi 625773
Dr. Munir Qasbi 896101
Dr. Basim Al Qaddumi 646224
Dr. Mohamad Al Sawra 732056
First pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 775524
Al Asena pharmacy 527655
Nairoyah pharmacy 623670
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644445
Shawabeh pharmacy 657646

IRBID:
Dr. Dr. Mohammad Al Sharaa (—)

AMMAN

Min. taxi temp
Amman 10:24
Aqaba 18:31
Deraa 09:29
Jordan Valley 16:30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 437111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Police 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 894599
Public Security Department 632023
Hotel Complaints 407800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Ambulance 771073
Compulsory 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101

IRBID

Dr. Dr. Mohammad Al Sharaa (—)

JORDAN TELEVISION

Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 650100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 655320
Queen Alia Int. Airport 655320

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre 813813/32
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn 646281/6
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mafkas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsiati 664171/4
Shamsiati Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munader Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Hajjaj, Al-Mahgreen 771073
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 773111/26
Arry, Marita 891611/15
Queen Abla Hospital 652405/50
Amal Hospital 674159
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)96732

IRBID

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Rifa Al Nadees Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15 Muscat (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Dubai (RJ)
10:45 Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)
10:55 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:00 Damascus (RJ)
17:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:15 Muscat (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Dubai (RJ)
10:45 Jeddah (RJ)
10:55 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:00 Damascus (RJ)
17:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:30 Beirut (ME)
10:15 Muscat (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Dubai (RJ)
10:45 Jeddah (RJ)
10:55 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:00 Damascus (RJ)
17:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)

ARRIVALS

Big turnout reported for Chamber of Commerce elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — A big turnout of voters was reported at the Professional Association Complex Monday for the election of a 21-seat council — with a mandate for four years — for the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

A total of 28 candidates are running for the council seats and at least 40 per cent of the total number of 17,159 eligible voters was expected to cast ballots.

The candidates are constituted in three groups and five independent.

The voting was supervised by a committee headed by Islam Al Khattab, Amman deputy governor, and six committees were assigned the task of counting the votes at the Amman Chamber of Commerce offices.

Khattab said that the voting was scheduled to end by 8 p.m. Monday, but that voters would be given a chance to come to the voting centre by Tuesday at the latest.

Khattab said that out of the 28 candidates 10 were members of the incumbent board, running for a second term.

The various vying groups had been carrying out an intensive campaign in the local press declaring their programmes for improving the chamber's performance and providing better services to the merchants and businessmen in the Amman area.

Germany to grant DM 20m commodity loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government is to receive a DM 20 million in commodity loan from the Federal Republic of Germany, to be channelled through the German Development Bank, payable over the coming 30 years, in accordance with an agreement signed at the Ministry of Planning here Monday.

The disbursement of the soft loan will take effect once Jordan concludes arrangements with the bank which will define the terms of the loan and the way in which it will be used, according to a statement following the signing ceremony.

The statement said that the loan was not part of the capital assistance programme which is being given by Germany to Jordan.

The loan agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah and the German charge d'affaires in Amman.

With the conclusion of Monday's deal, Germany would have granted Jordan a total of DM 75 million in commodity loans. Last year the two sides signed an agreement under which Jordan obtained a DM 55 million loan of which Jordan has so far received DM 45 million with the remaining DM 10 million forthcoming at a later date.

Last month, Germany was the first donor country to fulfill its pledge of financial assistance to Jordan, to help the country cope with the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis, by signing an agreement granting the Kingdom a DM 180 million, nearly \$120 million.

Jordan is among the recipients of the largest per capita amount of German aid. Since 1955 Jordan has received about DM 1.42 billion within the framework of economic cooperation.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of 39 paintings by Iraqi artist Haiman Muhammad Ali at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of Palestinian embroidery at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artist Anwar Haddadin at Muta University.

LECTURE

- Lecture entitled "1990 Excavations and Surveys in Wadi Al Yab, Northern Jordan" by Prof. Gaetano Palmucci at Yarmouk University's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology 3:00 p.m.

FILM

- German silent film entitled "Das Kabinett des Dr. Calligart" (1919 production; presented as part of the Fritz-Lang-film festival) at the Goethe Institute 8:00 p.m.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives WHO Director General Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima and WHO Regional Director Hussein Jazairi (second left). Attending was Health Minister Mohammad Al Zaben (Petra photo)

King honours WHO officials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Monday Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, the World Health Organisation director general, who was accompanied by WHO's Regional Director Hussein Jazairi.

During the audience, Jordan's efforts to provide health services to the evacuees from the Gulf were discussed.

King Hussein conferred on Nakajima and Jazairi the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order in recognition of their humanitarian roles and their efforts, through the WHO, to serve victims of disasters and wars.

Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben was present at the audience.

Nakajima was also received by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah for discussions on Jordan-WHO cooperation in health affairs and the general health situation among the

thousands of evacuees who continue to come to Jordan from the Gulf region.

Badran reviewed with the WHO head health services Jordan offered to nearly one million evacuees so far, which entailed recruiting hundreds of doctors, nurses and paramedics to carry out humanitarian services.

The prime minister also gave details about the financial losses Jordan incurred as a result of giving shelter, food, health and transportation services to the evacuees who have been fleeing the Gulf region after the start of the Gulf crisis Aug. 2.

Badran appealed to the World Health Organisation to compensate Jordan which, he said, was the worst affected party in the region as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Nakajima voiced WHO's appreciation of Jordan's private and public organisations' efforts to help evacuees of 100 nationalities, and promised that the organisation would exert all efforts to

provide Jordan with urgent health assistance and to supply the Kingdom with medicine much of which was used for the evacuees.

The minister of planning briefed Nakajima on the present health situation in the country and the extra burden the Kingdom had to shoulder by providing assistance to the evacuees on the one hand and by offering health care now to the thousands of Jordanian expatriates who have returned to the Kingdom following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Nakajima said that WHO understood the difficulties Jordan was facing and it would provide medicine, services for related to health, maintenance and training to personnel.

Nakajima, who is on a week-long visit to Jordan, which started Saturday, is accompanied by Dr. Hussein Jazairi, WHO regional director, and other WHO officials.

19 injured, 15 cars damaged in accident

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least 19 people were injured and bruised and more than 15 cars were damaged in a road accident which occurred in Amman Monday.

The accident, the worst of its kind to be reported in the Amman region over the past two years, occurred Al Muzdar district downtown Amman when a bus operated by the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) sped down the slope of the Muzdar hill when its driver lost control over it possibly due to faulty brakes, according to a spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD).

The bus, which at the time was full of passengers, hit cars parked along the main road in the Muzdar district where it was heading to from Al Wihdar area. Eyewitnesses said it must have been doing 100 kilometres an hour.

Apart from hitting cars, the bus damaged several stores along the street leading to the Italian Hospital before coming to a final stop at Saq Al Sail area nearby.

Scores of civil defence officers with their vehicles and equipment rushed to the scene of the accident to carry the injured to hospital. The victims were taken to Al Bashir Hospital and the Italian Hospital, nearest to the area, and cranes were used to lift the damaged cars from the street.

Contacted by telephone, Al Bashir Hospital said that 13 persons in all had been admitted for treatment and that all but two had remained and were described in medium condition.

The Italian Hospital said all the six persons admitted were still being treated. A doctor in charge said that five of the victims were in medium condition but the sixth was described in dangerous condition. The victim is being treated at the intensive care unit.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega (Petra photo)

King Hussein, Nicaraguan leader hold talks on Gulf crisis

American proposal a turning point — Ortega

By Serene Halasa and Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, said that Iraq was willing to support a peaceful settlement to all the conflicts in the region, including the Palestinian problem. Ortega, who concluded a second visit to Iraq this month, held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein with whom he discussed the recent American initiative.

"I think that the American proposal is a turning point where different views are exchanged," Ortega told the Jordan Times. On the other hand, he added, if this is "a waste of time" like American Vice President Dan Quayle had said recently, then the proposal "will pave the way for an American-led military confrontation," Ortega, head of the opposition Sandinista Liberation Front of Nicaragua, said.

Ortega also expressed hope the American side would be lenient

in order to "work together to reach a peaceful solution," he said.

"I will keep working with different delegations and listen to different views from North and South on the situation, to reach a settlement to the crisis," Ortega said. He also added that he was working on a peace initiative stemming from talks between North and South. Ortega refused to elaborate further on the nature of the initiative, but stressed that continuous efforts were exerted towards peace in the region.

During his visit to Iraq the former Nicaraguan president held extensive talks with Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and president of the Palestine state. "We talked about the Palestinian problem and the need to link it with other problems in the area," Ortega said, describing the talks with Arafat as being "very important."

Earlier Ortega had referred to the Gulf crisis as a conflict be-

tween north and south and said that the outcome would decide the future of the United Nations and the respect of international law.

Asked about the latest United Nations resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq if it did not withdraw from Kuwait, Ortega said that this resolution went against the spirit of the United Nations Charter. "The Charter calls for peaceful settlements of world crises, but in this case the new resolution calls for a military confrontation to solve this crisis," Ortega said.

His Majesty King Hussein received Ortega at the Royal Court. King Hussein and Ortega reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the outcome of Ortega's visits to several member states of the non-aligned movement in order to reach a political solution to the crisis.

Wednesday Ortega leaves for Germany to hold talks with former Chancellor Willy Brandt.

School curricula should include development programmes — Hamdan

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Monday opened a four-day consultative meeting on population education and development with delegates calling for the incorporation of the development programme into the schools' curricula.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Mohammad Hamdan said that increasing people's awareness of the problems that arise from population explosion was important in solving this problem.

"The population explosion is threatening the existence of mankind," Hamdan said. "And by incorporating the development programme into school curricula and adult education facilities, people would become aware of the dangers of the continuously increasing world population."

He added that it was necessary

to show the public the relationship between the population explosion and the economic and social factors.

Hamdan pointed out that two world conferences were held to discuss this problem. "The population explosion was discussed in a conference in Bucharest in 1974 and in Mexico in 1984."

"In 1984 a first such conference was held in the Arab World and it took place in Amman," Hamdan said.

Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kazim, personal representative of the director general of UNESCO in the Arab World and director of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) said that increasing world populations have already created many catastrophes.

"We have seen famine and disaster already," Kazim said. "And I want to sound the warning siren so that we all find our solutions for this problem."

Kazim added that the meetings to discuss the subject of "popula-

tion explosion were not only "festivals to enjoy," and that action was necessary to implement the suggestions that would be brought up at such meetings to solve the population issue.

"We are in a historical bind as Arabs and as human beings," Kazim said. "And responsibility is essential for the increase of the Arab World's awareness of the crises associated with the population explosion."

Kazim said the most important thing was to start implementing the programmes. "We must adopt a positive attitude and begin with a great deal of determination to inform the Arab World of this population education and development programme."

The meeting was attended by directors of population education departments, university professors, and others concerned with the matter discussed.

Mohammad Ali leaves with released Americans

AMMAN (AP) — A Tristar jetliner carrying boxing great Mohammad Ali and 15 Americans released by Iraq returned to Amman Monday after developing technical problems over Jordanian airspace.

"There was nothing serious. It was a simple technical failure in the engine," said Royal Jordanian Public Relations Director Samir Mutawi.

"The captain preferred to clear this slight technical fault and because he was close to Amman he decided to return and fix it," Mutawi said.

Mutawi refused to specify the nature of the problem.

All passengers aboard the aircraft were reported safe after flight RJ267, destined for New York, made an emergency landing at Amman Airport 30 minutes after takeoff.

Following a seven-hour wait at Amman Airport the same aircraft was readied and took off at 6:30 p.m.

Two Canadians were also aboard the flight to New York. They had been released by Iraq after three Canadian parliamentarians travelled to Baghdad to meet with Iraqi officials.

British Embassy spokesman Bruce Bucknell said six Britons who arrived in Jordan on Sunday with the Americans and Canadians also were headed home.

He said the Britons were all employees of the U.S.-based Bechtel Corporation which was handling their travel schedules.

"Some of the six left Amman for Europe late Sunday and others are scheduled to leave Monday for London," Bucknell said.

The Britons were among a group of 15 whose release was obtained by left-wing parliamentarian Tony Benn who visited Baghdad last month.

Reporters were not allowed to speak to any of the passengers Monday. The Britons, Americans and Canadians were rushed through the departure lounge away from cameramen and reporters.

Iraq refers to the Westerners as "guests" and calls them "heroes of peace." It holds many of them at strategic sites to deter an attack by the multinational forces assembled in the Gulf to counter Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Ali, who met with Saddam

Hussein in Baghdad last week, intends to return to Iraq for Christmas to try to win the release of more Americans, said Arthur Morrison, Ali's spokesman.

No details were immediately available on the whereabouts of an unknown number of Americans who, Morrison, said were also released by Iraq after an appeal by Ali.

The Americans were employees of a company called Lummus and were being flown out of Baghdad on a chartered flight, Morrison said.

Meanwhile, a group of nine British women were preparing to leave for Baghdad Wednesday with hopes that they would be able to secure the release of their husbands and relatives.

The group arrived in Jordan late Sunday and was waiting for 21 others to reach Amman Monday before proceeding to the Iraqi capital.

An earlier group of British wives and relatives met with Saddam Hussein last month in Baghdad and won the release of 10 British men.



Young girls display dresses ornated with Palestinian embroidery

Karaki opens Palestinian embroidery exhibition

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Culture Khaled Karaki Monday paid tribute to the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people who, he said, is currently waging a fight for survival and for protecting Arab identity and culture in Palestine.

Speaking upon his opening of a three-day exhibition of Palestinian embroidery at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, the minister said that the Jordanian people "will not spare any moment or effort in the ongoing drive to back our brothers, the Palestinians, in their just struggle for freedom."

"The exhibition is an expression of solidarity designed to offer moral and material support for the families of the killed or wounded and detained in Israeli jails," the minister pointed out.

Karaki thanked "Inaash Al Usra," the charitable society which organised the exhibition whose proceeds will benefit the victims of Israeli atrocities during the Palestinian intifada.

The exhibition displays samples of embroideries supplied by 5,400 women in 85 villages within the Ramallah-Al Bireh region in occupied Palestine.

He said that the exhibition was designed to offer moral and material support for the families of the killed or wounded and detained in Israeli jails, the minister pointed out.

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By Rami G. Khouri

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Peace chance improves

IN A French television interview a couple of days ago Iraqi President Saddam Hussein put the chances of war in the Gulf at "fifty-fifty." One would prefer to view the recent developments set in motion by U.S. President George Bush's offer to talk with his Iraqi counterpart as making the chances even better in favour of peace. When the Iraqi leader stated also in the wake of Washington's recent overture that there is plenty of room to arrive at a compromise solution provided the intended talks are genuine and profound he effectively tilted the pendulum in the direction of peace. That was not the first time Baghdad has hinted that it is willing to compromise provided there is an interlocutor willing to listen. Iraq's initiative of Aug. 12 had all the ingredients necessary for a compromise but at that time no adversary was willing to see that there was an opportunity for a peaceful way out of the Kuwaiti conflict. When one talks about a certain "compromise" it is obvious that Iraq is ready and able to entertain a military withdrawal from Kuwait under appropriate circumstances. It would not have been a tragedy to accommodate an Arab side by making commitments that the Palestinian question and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict would be dealt with in earnest concurrently with or immediately after the resolution of the Gulf crisis. All that Washington and London had to say then was to make an open and "unequivocal" declaration that a U.N. conference on the Middle East would be convened and for the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to put their seal of consent on such a move. This issue of dealing with the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflicts will no doubt come up when the talks between Baghdad and Washington get going.

Surely it is not beyond the ingenuity of the West to find a formula that binds them to the genuine search for peace in the Middle East without appearing to have succumbed to pressure. In other words there is room here too for a compromise and the U.S.-Iraqi projected talks can entertain such an eventuality without difficulty. Meanwhile, Washington removed another big hurdle in the face of the chances of peace in the Gulf when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker affirmed that Washington has no designs on Iraq, its territorial integrity or its defence capability in the context of a peaceful resolution. Thus he allayed the fears of the Arab side that Washington was bent on the destruction of that most viable Arab country. During the past few months there were repeated reckless statements from the U.S. which were fanned by Israel and its ardent supporters in the U.S. that toppling the Iraqi regime and the destruction of Iraq as a military power was an integral part of the overall American objective in the region. Baker's assurances to the contrary, though not enough to assuage all Arab fears and tribulations, will nevertheless help lay to rest not only Baghdad's fears but also the fears of the rest of the Arab World that the destruction of Iraq is no longer an objective of the West. It is equally reassuring that Baker's statements on all the other issues touching on the security and stability of the region, including the presence and development of mass destructive weapons, are matters to be dealt with independently of the immediate Kuwaiti situation. Baghdad can now talk in a much more relaxed mood and in the process can afford to be infinitely more forthcoming on the terms of the aspired-to peace accord.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT is not true that the United States had offered a peace initiative to Iraq because it was Iraq which first declared it was willing to discuss the question peacefully and was ready for dialogue with Washington to achieve peace and security in the Gulf, said Al Ra'i daily Monday. When Iraq announced its Aug. 12 initiative and said that it was willing to withdraw from Kuwait, the world realised that Baghdad was extending a hand of peace to all concerned parties and was willing to end the issue peacefully, said the paper. During the past months Washington and its allies had been beating the drums of war and issuing one threat after another having ensured sanctions on Iraq, the paper added. The United States has been making no secret its enmity towards the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular, and has not concealed its desire to destroy Iraq's infrastructure and liquidate Saddam Hussein, the paper noted. It said that the American people's refusal to fight a war to protect undemocratic regimes and to ensure the flow of oil, plus the Iraqi firm stand vis-a-vis threats coming from the West, have forced Washington to respond favourably to Iraq's calls for peace and dialogue.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily casts doubts on Moscow's stand with regard to the Gulf crisis and says that its attitude is indeed regrettable. Hassel Ayeshe notes that since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in August, the Soviet Union first announced it was not willing to participate in a war on Iraq regardless of the world condemnation of its invasion of Kuwait and the deployment of forces in the Gulf. Later however, Moscow stressed the need for a peaceful solution for the problem but only a short while afterwards it declared that it could take part in a war with a symbolic force to evict the Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the writer notes. He says that Moscow has actually chosen to serve as a bystander, watching the events and America's aggression without committing itself to anything to help solve the issue peacefully and awaiting the outcome of aggression so that it can have a piece of the cake and share with others any bonus that might come out of this military adventure. Moscow's attitude is more or less similar to the Roman governor of Jerusalem Pelato who handed over Jesus Christ to the Jews to crucify him, and at the same time announced that it was not his fault and he was quite innocent hoping to be absolved of any blame, the writer points out. Ayeshe asks whether the Soviet Union's destiny has fallen under the mercy of the Zionists' whims and desires after that country had adopted "perestroika" and the "glasnost" strategies. He says that the Soviet leaders should realise that they might not be able to take part in an aggression on Iraq even with a symbolic force.

The View from Fourth Circle

Texas Rangers and the Rest of the West

WHATEVER his motives may have been, George Bush has done something sensible in proposing talks with the Iraqi government, and one hopes that these days will mark a turning point for the better in the Gulf crisis (though it was pretty mean of him, at this moment of hope for at least psychological detente, to let loose Dan Quayle on us...). Both Washington and Baghdad now have to come to grips with the hard new realities of the world, and act accordingly during the upcoming talks.

For Americans, the Texas Rangers and the Rest of the West, the new realities mean that the expressions of pan-Arab identity and national political expression must be accepted, rather than confronted, as the fundamental power balance in this part of the world shifts. The forces of Arab domestic autocracy are losing ground, while the fusion of the forces of democratic pluralism, pan-Arab nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism is gaining ground (note the Jordanian Parliament as a good example of trends which should dominate much of the rest of the Arab World in coming years).

For Iraq, the new realities mean that it will have to withdraw from Kuwait, because the entire world, including all the Arab states, agree on this point. I would think that Iraq has much to gain politically from announcing during the coming six weeks that it is prepared to withdraw from Kuwait, if a satisfactory structure is established which would allow bilateral disputes with Kuwait to be resolved fairly. Iraq and all the Arabs will emerge with considerable political gains, because the fundamental political issues of concern to the vast majority of Arabs have been dramatically placed on the agenda of the world.

Specifically, political trends in the Arab World and Arab-international relations are likely to change for the better, because the Gulf crisis to date can count five clear achievements:

1. It has pointed out the deep bitterness and anger throughout much of the Arab World against the politically docile surplus wealth of the Gulf oil-producers which is largely invested outside the Arab World. Inter-Arab trade, aid, investment and labour flows should become more mutually productive and rational in the wake of the crisis, given the recognition of the repercussions of the wide socio-economic disparities within the Arab World.
2. It has pointed out the importance of democracy and participatory government as a right of all Arab nationals, and is likely to speed up the spread of democratic pluralism

throughout the Arab countries, including the Gulf, Iraq, Syria and others.

3. It has rekindled the ambers of Arab nationalism, and heightened awareness of a) the ravages of the dismemberment of the Arab Nation by the British and French after World War I, and b) the need to integrate pan-Arab human, natural and material resources in order to achieve Arab aspirations to development and dignity.
4. It has bluntly reawakened the world to international double standards applied in different conflicts in the region, and has added a sense of urgency to resolving the Palestine issue in a just and permanent manner.

5. It has forced the Western powers, especially the United States, to look beyond the flag waving and the sloganeering of the "new world order," and to start recognising that there is nothing new, worldly or orderly about a global vision which sees freedom, democracy and integration in Eastern Europe but domestic autocracy, economic regression, regional dismemberment and international subjugation and exploitation in the Arab World.

These are powerful gains, which should be nurtured and harnessed for future Arab objectives. I believe they can be, and thus we may be entering a moment of the most significant historical change in the region since the days of European infamy and duplicity in the first half of this century. The urgent priority now is to avert a catastrophic war in the Gulf and simultaneously to launch a political dialogue on all the outstanding issues which plague the region.

Iraq must realise that it cannot stand alone against the world, and if it maintains its rigid position, the world will liberate Kuwait through force. The economic, human and political cost of a Gulf war will be great, especially to the Arabs. I suspect that this is the moment for Iraqi leadership to assess its gains and losses to date, and to act accordingly. I also suspect that it has done precisely this, which explains its positive response to the Bush proposal for talks (along with the cigarettes and fruits and vegetables to the embassies in Kuwait...).

The fact that Washington and Baghdad are soon likely to be talking directly in a highly visible dialogue of senior officials is going to make the Arabs look rather foolish if they remain as they are today, split into two camps that barely talk to one another.

Therefore, I would look for a serious effort at inter-Arab reconciliation in the very near future. This is vital because if Iraq is going to make concessions, it will not make them to the Texas Rangers and the Rest of the West; it will make them to the context of the Arab World, within a larger framework of international legal and moral guarantees — but that Arab World is now two Arab Worlds that have to get back together again.

This process of intra-Arab reconciliation seems to me the most important aspect of the next phase of this region's history, for it will have to include a process of sorting out the true from the false among Arab political sentiments, and sorting out the merchants and the nationalists among the Arab political leaders. When the marines go back home, the Arab World will embark on a long-term process of political accountability and reorganisation which will sort out our Marcoses from our Aquinos. A better Arab World will emerge from the process.

If we can resolve the immediate crisis without a war, the net result of the conflict shall have been to have violently shaken up all the elements of this region which have combined to bring us to a historical low point in the late 1980s. One can argue, as I do, that the occupation of Kuwait was not the most appropriate way to resolve a key local problem which symbolised many of the larger problems of the region. But such arguments are meaningless, because Iraq did occupy and annex Kuwait, and therefore we have to deal with the real world.

The real world tells us that there are a score of deeply complex and often historical problems that are root causes of this present crisis. If Iraq plays its diplomatic cards carefully, it should be able to call in the assortment of hints, gestures, confessions, promises and offers that Western and Arab capitals have made in recent months vis-a-vis key Arab and international issues — such as resolving the Palestine problem, redressing inter-Arab imbalances, implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions with equal vigour in all cases, or applying a single standard of international morality and law to all conflicts in the region.

This seems to me a major victory for the cause of Arab rights and justice, as well as for regional stability and international peace. The Iraqis will be able to claim considerable credit for such achievements in a post-conflict era — if they can use the dialogue that seems about to begin to reinvent the resolution of the region's problems from a military to a political mode.

Still good friends

By Howard Goller

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will speak to the leader of Israel's closest ally for the first time in 10 months when he meets U.S. President George Bush in December.

Bush issued a White House invitation last month apparently to try to ease the strains caused by Shamir's refusal in March to accept U.S. proposals for peace talks with Palestinians, said Israeli spokesman Avi Pazner.

The leaders have corresponded but not spoken since a phone call last February. Bush had meanwhile talked regularly to his Arab allies in the Gulf crisis — states officially at war with Israel despite a lack of hostilities.

"I think President Bush is interested in opening a fresh page," Pazner, Shamir's senior adviser, told Reuters. He said the meeting would take place on December 11.

"I think there is interest from the American side to halt speculation about the worsening of the relationship — and to invite Shamir is the normal thing to do," he said.

Pazner dismissed Israeli press speculation the invitation to visit Washington while Shamir was planning to be in the United States was Israel's reward for not complaining too loudly about the U.S.-Syrian summit meeting in Geneva.

Bush met President Hafez Al-Assad of Syria, Israel's arch-enemy, for talks on maintaining an Arab-American alliance against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein who triggered the Gulf crisis by seizing Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Although surely disappointed, Shamir refrained from criticising the talks with Assad, apparently preferring to keep Israel's profile low in the Gulf crisis and avoid further friction with Washington.

The United States supplies three billion dollars a year in aid to Israel but relations are chilled by frustrated peace efforts, Shamir's handling of the Palestinian uprising and the continued settlement of Jews in the occupied Arab lands.

At one point Bush's Secretary of State, James Baker, said Israel could call the White House when

serious about peace.

Israeli political sources and the leaders of American Jewish groups say a friendship that seemed unshakable has given way to mutual distrust and bickering.

Last month Israel defied Washington by refusing to help a U.N. inquiry into the police killing of 18 Arabs in a Jerusalem riot. The United States hoped an inquiry, handled swiftly, would enable the U.N. to focus on the Gulf.

But Israel has felt its own security interests, were being minimised or ignored by a U.S. administration cultivating new relations with Arab states.

Political sources in Israel and Washington say the Bush-Shamir problem is personal as well as political.

Shamir was received at the White House when he visited the United States in November 1989 but Bush wanted to the last minute to issue the invitation — a calculated display of displeasure over Israel's stance on peace



talks. This time, Pazner said, Shamir had not sought the invitation directly or indirectly. Nor did he

expect Shamir to raise new ideas on the Arab-Israeli conflict, given the focus now on the Gulf crisis.

"We may have differences. We don't have to agree on everything," Pazner said, insisting however, "We can still remain good friends."

A cavalier decision - making process

By William McClean

JOHANNESBURG — Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's oldest and most influential anti-apartheid movement, is showing signs of strain on the last lap of its marathon 78-year campaign for democracy.

The ANC is struggling against factional violence, alleged state harassment and its own poor administration to re-establish itself in the townships after 30 years of banning and exile.

ANC leaders Mandela and Oliver Tambo remain international symbols of black resistance to white rule, but their movement, the historical champion of the dispossessed 28 million black majority, is returning only slowly from the underground.

The respected Southern African report said Mandela and his colleagues had succeeded remarkably well at spearheading the movement's return to legality after decades in prison or exile. "But instead of a well-oiled, structured machine gearing itself from a liberation movement into a functioning political party... the ANC is a halting, fumbling, disjointed gathering of disparate peoples and attitudes," the newsletter said.

Boycotts and rallies by the ANC and its affiliates show the movement wields more influence than any other black group.

But the ANC has failed to turn supporters into an organised membership since reformist white President F.W. de Klerk freed Mandela from prison and legalised the movement in February.

"The urgent task of the day remains the transformation of our large following and support into active grassroots organisations," said the ANC's official magazine Mayibuye.

A large obstacle to the growth of ANC structures has been faction fighting between its supporters and those of the conservative Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom

Party in townships in Natal province and the industrial region around Johannesburg.

ANC disorganisation was cruelly exposed when young ANC loyalists repeatedly ignored orders to stop fighting in violent clashes around Johannesburg that have cost more than 900 lives.

The movement's head of finance, Vusi Khanyile, told Reuters in an interview that the movement had signed up about 200,000 members since February and would have recruited many more but for the violence.

ANC membership comes a dismal second to Inkatha, a group long favoured by Pretoria, which has almost two million.

"Many people who are not in the ANC ask us for help during the violence. The government cannot help. We had to focus on troubleshooting rather than building branches," Khanyile said.

"The ANC has a public responsibility over and above its responsibility to its members. It has the responsibility in effect of co-governing the country with the government."

The movement says its operations have also been disrupted by the detention of key ANC leaders on suspicion of plotting a resumption of guerrilla war if reform talks fail.

Political analysts say some of the ANC's woes are self-inflicted. "There is no way that members can continue to tolerate what often seems to them a cavalier decision-making process," wrote Work in Progress, an influential political monthly.

"The ANC hierarchy is still geared to an underground conspiratorial organisation. Orders come from above and there is a habit on open debate," wrote the left-leaning Weekly Mail.

The party has postponed for six months a key meeting at which Mandela was due to assume the title of president from the ailing Tambo, who returns next month after 30 years in exile.

The ANC said the slow pace of

efforts to secure the return of 20,000 exiles and the release of 3,000 political prisoners made the delay necessary, as these people would have to attend.

The December meeting has been rearranged as a consultative conference, while the June 1991 meeting will be the first national ANC conference inside South Africa in 30 years.

Members say there is tension between ageing leaders inside the country and some militant guerrillas in exile who disapprove of the leadership's suspension of armed struggle.

The ANC, founded in 1912, has become a coalition of forces often united only by opposition to apartheid. As apartheid eases ANC moderates and radicals will split, the analysts said.

Khanyile said the return of exiles would be the biggest single ANC expense in the coming months and the cost of flights home, housing and retraining was "far more" than the millions of dollars secured by Mandela's fund-raising trips overseas.

He said the ANC would ask for funds for the exiles from business but Pretoria also had to accept its "responsibility."

Business spokesmen say that while some might help, they would require the ANC to tone down its leftist policies.

Another source of dissent is the appointment of Mandela's wife Winnie to head the ANC's social welfare division.

Mrs. Mandela faces trial next year on charges of kidnapping and assault in the case of a youth murdered by one of her aides.

A militant revered by radical youths, Mrs. Mandela causes unease in some ANC circles with her frequent outspoken comments.

Asked about his wife's relationship to ANC policy-making, Nelson Mandela said: "Sometimes... I do not do what I should be doing — coming back home and explaining to my wife very carefully the decisions we have taken and their implications."

Menem magic being tested as austerity begins to bite

By Ed McCullough

The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — President Carlos Menem's enemies wonder how he gets away with cracking down on unions, business, the armed forces and even his own Peronist Party.

Similar actions by the previous government provoked 13 general strikes, three barracks revolts, food riots and hyperinflation. President Raul Alfonsín was forced to step down more than five months early, in July 1989.

"If I had done 10 per cent" of what Menem has done, "they would have hanged me from a lamppost," Alfonsín said recently.

In 16 months, Menem has wrenched the economy from state control toward free enterprise and sought closer ties with the United States at the expense of Third World nations. Those are major shifts for any Argentine president, particularly a Peronist.

He is selling off public companies the unions consider a national patrimony, used military personnel to break a strike, ended collective bargaining agreements and held pay increases for public employees far below the inflation rate.

"What Menem is doing is exactly the opposite of what Peron did, what the party stands for and what Menem himself promised in his campaign," said novelist Tomas Eloy Martinez, once a follower of the late president Juan Peron.

Col. Mohammed Ali Seineldin, who led an army rebellion in December 1988, was forced to retire and many of his followers were purged from the service.

The military budget is so low the 1990 draft had to be cut by two-thirds. Many officers have second jobs, in the civilian world. Argentina is in a recession. Real wages are below their average values of the 1980s and one in

five adults lacks full-time work. The austral is greatly overvalued.

Despite all that, Argentina has managed to avert economic collapse, political crisis, social unrest and military insurrection. Catastrophe is always possible in a country that has had six coups since 1930 and four currencies in 20 years, but it does not seem imminent.

Supporters credit Menem, but also cite a change in Argentine social values, and the president's critics tend to agree.

Historian Felix Luna, a member of Alfonsín's radical civic union who finds the Menem foreign policy "excessively pro-American," said the people believe "it's absolutely necessary... that Argentina change."

Public services are in terrible condition: telephones are expensive, trains don't run on time and mail gets lost.

A nation accustomed to triple-digit annual inflation was swamped in 1989 by hyperinflation of more than 4,900 per cent. Many people are willing to accept brutal measures, even severe recession, to keep that from happening again.

There is virtually no public support for a return to military rule, and Menem seems to have placated the armed forces by calling off trials of officers accused of human rights abuses during the dictatorship of 1976-83. A pardon for those convicted is pending.

Nearly everyone in Argentina is suffering to some degree and the man imposing the pain of economic conservatism comes in the unlikely guise of a Peronist.

Political analyst Carlos Escude suggested only a Peronist could undertake such radical changes, and said: "There are historical corollaries: Nixon and China, Reagan and Gorbachev, Bush and Taxes."

Saul Ubaldini, Menem's chief rival in the Peronist-dominated labour movement, criticises the president's economic policy but insists: "by no definition am I a political opponent."

For all the criticism, no one has proposed a convincing alternative to the president's programme.

Menem, a son of Syrian immigrants who became a lawyer and provincial governor. As an outsider, he scored a primary victory in July 1988 over Gov. Antonio Cafiero of Buenos Aires, who party leaders thought would be the next president.

He tells Argentines in direct language that the government he inherited was bankrupt, the currency almost worthless and the economic model of state control an empty shell.

Again and again, he repeats that radical change was unavoidable and asks for patience during the years it will take for the sacrifices to bear fruit.

In October inflation rose by only a single digit, for the first time in 11 months. Real wages have recovered some of their lost value, interest rates have fallen and central bank reserves rose 40-fold to \$4 billion.

There also are signs, however, that the popularity of Menem and his policies is wearing thin, and that serious opposition may be forming.

Recent polls put his public support at about 50 per cent, down 30 points from its peak.

Ubaldini is mobilising workers against the economic programme and Menem's decree restricting the right to strike.

Several parties have withdrawn from the political coalition that helped Menem win the presidency in May 1989.

The Peronist governors of Cordoba and Jujuy provinces were forced to resign in October by mass protests of workers demanding back wages. The provincial said they couldn't pay because the federal government had withheld funds.

Iraq blamed

(Continued from page 1)

The delegation has already visited Syria and Lebanon and will visit Cairo, Sanaa and Khartoum.

The delegation was received by His Majesty King Hussein Monday. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister met with the team Sunday.

Rab'i, a member of the Kuwaiti opposition who was arrested and imprisoned by the emiri government several times, rejected an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, maintaining that the Arab countries who have been advocating this idea have not been able to define its meaning.

"Jordan still hopes for an Arab solution," said Rab'i. "We hope so too, but it is so complicated because no one can define an Arab solution."

He refused to accept any linkage between solution of the Kuwaiti problem with the Palestinian issue. The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait "only complicated and made more difficult a solution to the Palestinian people," he said.

Rab'i maintained that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait had made Israel happier because "one big Arab country had occupied another smaller Arab country" and because the world attention has shifted from the intifada to the Gulf crisis.

"With the world's preoccupation with the Gulf, Jewish immigration to Israel has increased and the news of the intifada has been overshadowed by the Gulf problem," Rab'i said. Israel would never withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip because there was now a dispersed Kuwaiti people, he said.

Rab'i contended that Palestinians were misled in thinking that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was a step towards the liberation of Palestine, and "that there was a possibility of simultaneous withdrawal and other dreams that I think are unrealistic." He said that the Palestinian reaction was understandable because of "their displacement, suffering and frustration in the last 40 years."

Rab'i, a professor at Kuwait University, maintained that an Iraqi withdrawal from the oil-rich state and Baghdad's compliance with Security Council resolutions would strengthen the position of the Arab World.

"We'll be able to tell the world that we respected international legitimacy; then international legitimacy must be respected by everyone everywhere, including those related to the Palestinian question," he said.

For Rab'i, the only solution to the Gulf problem is that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait as a first step, especially after the statements of U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, which he said guaranteed Iraq's safety from an attack if it did pull out.

"I don't think the world community would allow an attack on Iraq if it withdraws," he said, adding that once withdrawal takes place, problems could be discussed and negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait would start.

Rab'i, who believes that the lack of democracy in both Iraq

and Kuwait led to the invasion, said that he would like to see a new democratic Kuwaiti state "run by democratic institutions, not individuals."

He stressed that a new Kuwait should play a positive role in the Arab World, particularly towards the Palestinian problem. "All miserable Arab countries, of which Kuwait is one, abused the rights of Palestinians," he said.

He stressed that people should not be selective concerning countries that have abused rights of Palestinians.

The Kuwaiti visitors, who expected to meet with the speaker of the Lower House and the Foreign Affairs Committee in Parliament, were boycotted by the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Alliance (JANDA) and the professional unions because the delegation endorsed Western intervention in the Gulf. Rab'i expressed regret over the boycott, saying that dialogue might have brought their points of view closer together.

Perceptions

(Continued from page 1)

expressed support for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. But they strongly resented the delegation's call for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal and Kuwait's failure to condemn outright the U.S.-led military buildup in the Gulf.

When pressed by Jordanian politicians and journalists, members of the delegation, who include former ministers as well as opposition leaders, rejected the foreign military presence in the Gulf but blamed Iraq for triggering the U.S.-led mobilisation.

As was evident during a two-hour debate, organised by the World Council Affairs Sunday evening, the Kuwaiti appeal for Jordanians to press Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait to avert a catastrophe in the region did not find much response.

"Arabs should ask Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait for the sake of the Iraqi army and to avoid a disaster in the region," was the Kuwaiti message repeated by the members of the delegation.

"We cannot press for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. An unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait will jeopardise Iraq's and Jordan's security," countered Mahmoud Al Sherif, editor-in-chief of Al Dstour newspaper.

Political commentator Hamadeh Fara'neh challenged the delegation to explicitly condemn the Kuwaiti and Saudi invitation of foreign troops to liberate Kuwait and to distance themselves from the pro-U.S. policies endorsed by the Al Sabah family.

Although the delegation included some prominent opposition Kuwaiti figures, the opposition — despite its criticism of the regime — rallied behind the emir against the Iraqi occupation.

At a meeting in Taif, Saudi Arabia, last month, the opposition pressured the emir to agree to democratic reforms in Kuwait — after its restoration — as one precondition to bury their differences and unite in their current struggle against Iraq.

Up until the Iraqi takeover, the Kuwaiti opposition en-

joyed broad respect in Jordan and maintained friendly and close ties with Jordanian political groups.

When Kuwaitis started its experimentation with democracy in 1976 many Jordanians turned their eyes to Kuwait as a possible model to be emulated in the region. Many Jordanians were shocked and pained when in 1985 the emir ended the democratisation process by dissolving the parliament and imposing restrictions on the freedom of the press. The Kuwaiti government then cited fears of sabotage as a result of the tension in the Gulf emanating from the Iraq-Iran war.

But after the eruption of the Gulf crisis, ties between the Kuwaiti opposition and Jordanian political groups were reduced to a minimum.

Some activists, including former Baathists and Communists, were also critical of Saddam for not seeking talks with the Kuwaiti opposition.

"I am certainly against the Kuwaiti emir. But the Iraqis are ignoring the Kuwaiti people and the popular movement in Kuwait," Dr. Yaacoub Zaidin, leader of the Jordanian Communist Party, said immediately after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

After the Iraqi annexation of the emirate some Jordanian politicians had also felt, but few said it, that Iraq might have committed a mistake by ignoring the Kuwaiti opposition. "By annexing Kuwait Iraq had negated the identity and the existence of the Kuwaiti opposition," Dr. Jamal Al Shahr, a former Baathist, said at the time.

Some political activists here were even hoping that the Kuwaiti opposition will provide an alternative for the emir regime as one way for ending what is viewed here as the Al Sabah family's subservience to the West and as an important option to convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Most Jordanian politicians, however, were very disappointed in what they viewed as the Kuwaiti opposition's practical endorsement of the idea of seeking American help to solve the Iraqi-Kuwait dispute.

The Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Alliance (JANDA) — a broad coalition of leftists, independents and nationalists — refused to meet with or hold a dialogue with the Kuwaiti delegation unless it condemned outright the foreign military presence in the region.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which had initially condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but later focused its campaign against the Western military build-up in the Gulf, has met with the delegation.

In general, the Brotherhood, the most influential group in Jordan, has not completely severed ties with the Gulf states. Last September a Brotherhood delegation visited Saudi Arabia but later reiterated its condemnation of the Western presence in the Gulf.

But Jordanian officials and some political analysts maintain that dialogue should be encouraged despite the evident differences between the Jordanian public opinion and the Kuwaiti approach.

"The Kuwaiti move (to send a delegation here) came a little

bit late, but interaction and exchange of views might be essential to find a basis for a solution and for the future of inter-Arab relations," said one politician who attended Sunday's meeting.

Children

(Continued from page 1)

and complications that led to their death," Baghdad Radio quoted the minister as saying.

Shipments of medicine and food for humanitarian purposes were exempted from the U.N. Security Council trade ban.

The difficulty of delivering any goods to Iraq and the lack of foreign exchange needed to buy medicine abroad have caused a severe shortage.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said last week that many Iraqis had died because of a lack of food and medicine caused by the U.N. sanctions.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, responding to senators' pleas to give sanctions more time to work before military action is taken against Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait, told senators Monday: "There are consequences, costs to our coalition partners and to the country. The evidence is not all on the side of the notion that we can wait indefinitely for sanctions to work."

Moscow

(Continued from page 1)

Also Monday, a hard-line faction in the supreme Soviet legislature criticised the Soviet government's vote at the United Nations.

At a news conference in the Kremlin, members of the Soyuz group said they were "categorically opposed" to sending Soviet troops to the Middle East under the U.N. flag. They said the Soviet Union should have taken the same position as China and abstained from voting on the use-of-force resolution.

Pope

(Continued from page 1)

European politician has spoken about a possible papal visit to Iraq or a tripartite meeting grouping the leaders of the U.S. and Iraq and the pontiff.

On several occasions since the Gulf crisis erupted in August with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Pope has called for dialogue and peace negotiations to resolve the conflict, but he has never referred to any possible visit to Iraq, now frequented by politicians and former statesmen as well as international peace activists.

There has been no indication either from Washington of any possible Bush-Saddam encounter arranged by the Pope or otherwise. Bush has rejected suggestions by Saddam for a television debate through satellite hook-up between the two. However, he has invited the Iraqi foreign minister to the U.S. and is sending his secretary of state to Baghdad.

Pimenex de Gejanda said his party opposed the policy of the Spanish government towards the Gulf crisis. "It has resulted in damaging the centuries-old relations between the people of Spain and Arabs," he said. Spain has contributed to the naval build-up in the Gulf to enforce the international blockade against Iraq.

Pimenex de Gejanda said his party "wholeheartedly supports Iraq" in the Gulf standoff and had signed a cooperation agreement with the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party of Iraq. He did not provide details.



The King Talal Dam — "most of the dams in Jordan are polluted to the point that it is poison in there."

We consume the least amount of water but we are still heading towards shortages

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has one of the lowest water consumption rates in the region, estimated at 85 litres per capita a day, which has raised concern among specialists of drawing the country towards a situation where Jordanians would be living below the international average of hygienic standards. Water specialists also warn that unless water is preserved more professionally and pollution is curbed, the Kingdom would be facing severe problems in food production.

Dr. Elias Salameh, director of the Water Research and Study Centre at the University of Jordan admits that Jordan is facing a critical situation. "We are one of the countries that are consuming the least amount of water in the region," comparing notes on water consumption, he disclosed that while Jordan uses 85 litres per capita a day, Syria and Egypt consume 120 litres per capita in the same time period. Iraq's consumption rate falls to the 110 litre margin. "By 1995, we will run out of renewable water resources, and would have to resort to allocating more water for domestic use." In other words, we will be reducing the use of water for food production, Salameh said.

He explained that the sector that consumes the largest amounts of water is the agricultural field, using from 75 to 80 per cent of the country's water. At present water is tapped twice a week into houses allowing for a two-day period during which water is stored. "If there is a drastic water shortage, people will still get water for domestic use," Salameh asserts. But on whose account? "Agriculture would have to be cultivated to the benefit of domestic uses," he replied.

This means that unemployment is likely to increase fol-

lowed by all the socio-economic implications of unemployment, specialists fear. Although the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the government have recently been cautioning the public to use water moderately and to implement water-saving measures, Salameh believes that this is not the real issue. All the water that people are supposedly wasting on cars, or on gardening either goes into the soil or into the streets and sewers for re-use. "What we need to do is work on the dams, on water treatment and on the water piping system," he explains.

Many researchers on this subject feel that a great contributor to water scarcity this year is the large number of people and refugees that have recently flooded into the country. "Towards the end of the year, large numbers of people entered Jordan. At the same time, the country had to ration the water consumption levels between the Jordanian people and more than 735,000 refugees," a specialist said.

But the rapid population growth in general created an eye opener on the future of water, specialists maintain. According to Salameh, Jordan's population growth rate is estimated at 3.7 per cent annually, "this means the country would have to double its water supply within 18 to 20 years."

Another problem hindering the prospects of sufficient water for domestic and agricultural uses are the precipitation levels. Salameh told the Jordan Times that "rainy seasons in Jordan are short with an average rainfall not exceeding 300 millimetres per year, although it is distributed over 90 per cent of the country." He said that 85 per cent of the rainfall evaporates, leaving the re-

maining 15 per cent to go underground or run as surface water.

"Under the prevailing climatic environments where food production depends on irrigated agriculture the per capita food needs can be covered by irrigating 1,000-1,500 square metres of land. The extent of the area depends on the technologies used in production. It needs a minimum amount of 1,000 cubic metres of water going up to a maximum 2,500 cubic metres of water depending on the use of efficiency," according to a research paper by Salameh.

The year 1990 was declared the year of water for Jordan but towards the end of the year there is concern over the little precipitation and the unsuccessful construction of dams, according to officials. The government has been initiating projects to build more dams throughout the country but financing for construction and negotiations are still facing difficulties. As an outlet to the need for water for agricultural uses, the government has begun to tap fossil water in the southern part of the country. Though there seem to be two sides to this method, Salameh insists that "this is bad," attributing his conclusion to the fact that fossil water is non-renewable. "This mining water is being used for wheat production. Fossil water is only a strategic water reserve." He explained that the age of that water is some tens of thousands of years old. Once it is pumped out of the aquifer, the level drops and it is not replenished. Specialists said that deep aqua flow is found deeper in the earth but it is too costly to pump, so while Aqaba is in need of water, the fossil water is being used for wheat. "If wheat continues to be produced in southern Jordan for a certain period of time, there will not be adequate supplies for Aqaba," Salameh told the Jordan Times.

Ministry officials have been addressing the problem to the public and translating words into action by repairing leakages and other obstacles within the piping system and looking into what factors have been the contributors to the inefficient use of water in the Kingdom.

Aside from the small dams which are used solely for irrigation purposes, the five major dams in Jordan were built with the idea that they would store enough water for public consumption. According to Salameh, whose centre sends specialists out on the field to study the water problems, "the quality of re-used water is not very high. The water treatment is not adequate because of the design of the treatment plants. We are in need of a lot of experts and chemicals which is a costly process."

One ministry official requesting anonymity went as far as saying, "most of the dams are polluted to the point that it is poison in there. As much as we try to combat this issue, and even if we had the facilities, I do not think we could kill all the pollutants." While the government has banned swimming and fishing in the polluted dams, health is still considered at risk because the possibility of contaminating the crops through irrigation from the water in the dams is high, specialists maintain.

Salameh sees only one safety valve to the issue of water. He says that with the high pollution and the increasing demand for domestic water "the growing shortage dilemma of the Middle East can only be coped with if new resources can be made available or if the demand remains at its present state."

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Atletico jubilant over Zaragoza win

By Reuters

ATLETICO Madrid were still celebrating Monday after their 4-0 Spanish Soccer League victory over Real Zaragoza, a win completed with only nine men on the field.

"It was a great game, our best since I have been at Atletico," said Yugoslav coach Tomislav Ivic, who joined the club in August.

"I have always said things will turn out well if we put all our effort into it, and this result proves it."

The score was only 1-0 when Atletico captain Paulo Futre was sent off for retaliating to a foul, but the Madrid side turned on the style in the second half to score three more goals.

Defender Juan Carlos was the other player dismissed.

Johan Cruijff, manager of league leaders Barcelona, was relieved but pleased after his side's hard-fought 2-1 home win over Real Mallorca.

"The team did well, not so much in the football we played but in terms of effort and fight," he said.

Champions Real Madrid moved up to third place, five points behind Barcelona, after beating Real Valladolid 1-0 in an otherwise disappointing match.

French champions Marseille also won, but not well enough to please team chief Franz Beckenbauer. Marseille moved four points clear at the top of the league with a 2-0 win over fifth-placed Montpellier.

"We are now four points ahead

but that's my only satisfaction from this match," Beckenbauer said angrily. "I am not happy with what I saw and with the game my team played."

"I don't know exactly what happened, or whether my players are perhaps tired but I'm going to have to find some solutions quickly."

Marseille struggled haphazardly throughout the match, winning only with two goals in the last 11 minutes from Basile Boli and Abedi Pele.

It was big defender Boli's sixth goal in seven matches but Montpellier protested vehemently that his effort was offside, holding up the match for several minutes.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Auxerre, who drew 1-1 in Bordeaux, and Monaco, who threw away a 2-0 advantage to tie 2-2 with Nancy, both lost ground on Marseille and are on 24 points to 23 for the leaders.

In Italy, the league programme was once again marred by violence.

Fighting broke out before the match between Juventus and Fiorentina, whose fans are still bitter that their former star Roberto Baggio was sold to the Turin team in the summer.

Baggio, the world's most expensive player, was in subdued mood Sunday, but his new team won 2-1 to join Internazionale and Sampdoria at the top.

In Rome, police arrested 300 fans for fighting outside the

Olympic Stadium before and after the derby between AS Roma and Lazio, which ended 1-1.

The derby marked the return as substitute of Lazio's Argentine World Club midfielder Pedro Troglio, who has been on the transfer list since the start of the season.

Another Argentine World Club star, Claudio Caniggia, sparked the resignation of the Atlanta team doctor by coming on for the last 10 minutes in the 1-1 draw with Bologna.

The doctor had said the striker, who broke his arm on Oct. 3, was not yet ready to return to the game.

In the Netherlands, Ajax won accolades for their 5-0 victory over Den Haag with commentators saying it had shown them to be the best side in the country.

Ajax, defending champions, lag a point behind PSV Eindhoven but have a game in hand.

"It is too early to say Ajax will win the national competition, but the technical brilliance of the Amsterdam team make it more colorful than all other Dutch teams put together," the Volkskrant newspaper decided.

PSV, on the other hand, were severely criticised for their 2-0 victory over Willem II.

"PSV at this moment lack flair, joy in their play and Romero," said the Telegraaf, noting the continued absence of the team's talented Brazilian striker.

In London, Arsenal, humiliated at home in midweek, ended Liverpool's 23-match unbeaten record Sunday to throw the English League soccer cham-

ampionship wide open.

The second-placed Londoners, stripped of two championship points last month for a mass brawl with Manchester United, beat the champions 3-0 to slash Liverpool's lead to three points.

It was Liverpool's first league defeat since they lost 1-0 to Arsenal's neighbours Tottenham Hotspur in March.

The emphatic win revived Arsenal's title hopes after a month when everything seemed to be conspiring against them.

Now the only first division team still unbeaten in the league this season, Arsenal lost 6-2 to Manchester United in the League Cup Wednesday in their worst home defeat in 69 years.

But Sunday's goals from Paul Merson, Lee Dixon — a penalty — and Alan Smith made ample amends for that defeat.

Merson headed Arsenal in front in the 21st minute and Dixon hit the second from the spot in the 47th after Swedish international Anders Limpar was sent crashing by Gary Ablett.

Liverpool, without England international Peter Beardsley and Steve McMahon, made little impression on Arsenal's defence, superbly marshalled by Ireland sweeper David O'Leary.

Smith made it 3-0 two minutes from time after a delightful backheel from Merson set him free in the area.

"There's a lot of people out there today who do not love Arsenal Football Club but who wanted us to beat them because it keeps the championship alive," said O'Leary.

U.S. on top of the world after Davis Cup victory

ST PETERSBURG, Florida (R) — The United States is reclaiming its place at the pinnacle of international tennis after its record 29th Davis Cup victory over Australia at the weekend.

"This puts American tennis back on track," said Jim Pugh, who teamed with Rick Leach to beat Pat Cash and John Fitzgerald in Saturday's doubles and clinch the cup for the United States for the first time since 1982.

"It's been almost nine years since we won and people have said a lot of negative things about American tennis, but as everyone can see we're really on the upswing. We're going to be really good in the '90s," Pugh said.

Most of the glory usually goes to singles players in the Davis Cup. Andre Agassi and Michael Chang, who won Friday's singles matches, gave the United States a 2-0 finals lead.

But Leach and Pugh have been the backbone of this Davis Cup team, quietly winning all four of their matches this year.

"The doubles is only worth one point, but it always comes at a pivotal time in the tie," said Leach, whose inspired play allowed the U.S. team to wrap up the title before Sunday's reverse singles, won by Australia.

U.S. Captain Tom Gorman, a player on winning and losing Davis Cup teams who realised his goal of leading a championship squad after falling short for the last four years, tried to put the 3-2 victory in perspective.

"I don't know if it's cycles countries go through, but Sweden is starting to be asked the same question we were asked four years ago and that is: 'What's wrong with tennis in the country.' Now all of a sudden nobody is asking that in America."

"When Mac (John McEnroe) stopped playing for a while there was really nobody that took his place and we were going through the doldrums. Now all of a sudden we're back," Gorman said.

The Americans chose to host the final on clay, a surface they would traditionally try to avoid.

With nine Americans now ranked among the top 25 in the world, including Brad Gilbert, Aaron Krickstein and Jay Berger who all contributed Davis Cup victories in the early rounds this year, it is clear that the United States could field a formidable cup squad on any surface.

American Pete Sampras, the 19-year-old ranked fifth in the world, won this year's U.S. Open — the world's premier hardcourt tournament. And two weeks ago Agassi won the season's top indoor event, the ATP World Championships, by beating world number one Stefan Edberg of Sweden.

"Maybe next year we'll even play on some out of date surface like grass," joked Gorman.

Even if forced to defend the cup on grass as Australia would prefer, the United States could produce a team that might well be favoured.

Leach and Pugh are Wimbledon doubles champions, and former world number one McEnroe has claimed the Wimbledon singles crown three times.

With the U.S. women easily winning the Federation Cup this year behind the remarkable play of 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati, it appears American tennis is well positioned to thrive in a post Jimmy Connors/Chris Evert world.

Agassi, America's number one and fourth-ranked in the world at 20 years of age, said: "People used to ask what's the matter with American tennis and I always said, 'Nothing, just give us a couple of years.'"

With little more than pride on the line, Australians Richard Fromberg and Darren Cahill fought their way to victory in both reverse singles matches at the Davis Cup finals Sunday.

Cahill, who lost to Chang Friday, won the first reverse singles, which were shortened to best-of-three, when Agassi retired with a torn muscle after the two split sets 6-4, 4-6.

Fromberg then beat Chang 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 to make the final score 3-2 in favour of the United States.

Fromberg, Australia's top clay court player, had extended Agassi's streak through five tough sets in Friday's opening match.

"It's always good to win, but it's also good to lose with a bit of guts," said Cahill. "We always go down fighting. It's an Australian tradition."

Agassi, who was later diagnosed with a torn rectus muscle, which is attached to the sternum, quit immediately after winning the second set and left to a smattering of boos from the disappointed crowd at the Florida Suncoast Dome.

But Chang and Fromberg gave the fans their money's worth with an exciting baseline duel.

Chang continued his second set momentum with an opening game service break in the third set.

But Fromberg fought back, winning four successive games from 3-2 down with a pair of service breaks.

Chang seemed poised for one of his patented dramatic comebacks when he fought off four match points from 0-40. But Fromberg delivered an ace on the fifth match point to conclude the 1990 Davis Cup on a winning note.

Following the match, Australian captain Neale Fraser congratulated the winners.

"They fully deserved it. They are worthy champions who beat us fair and square," said Fraser, forgetting earlier criticism over the U.S. decision to play the final on clay.

"I know we're not taking the trophy home but I know we have a champion team," Fraser continued. "The way they gussed it out when they had already been beaten is really something."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 4, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: After an upsetting early morning start you come under excellent conditions (Moon trine Pluto) for anything that requires quick thinking. You are equally versatile in your physical movements through early evening.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are highly charged today and tonight to put into motion the various intimate aims that are vital to your future wellbeing and happiness.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Deep within yourself you now know the answers to the various arrangements you can make for gaining your most cherished longings.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now can get both useful companions and those in public who understand your personal desires to lead you a hand in making them yours.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Highly placed persons are now watching or otherwise aware of just how you are performing your duties so don't let them down.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are now inspired with some of your most brilliant ideas where your creative talents are concerned so lose no time but put them in motion.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get your facts and figures of a business nature together and make an outline with your family for having security in expressing your abundance.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider the best manner in which you can approach those with whom you desire contact in the future so a long time relationship is begun.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The way you now plan your financial activities through your daily occupation is the means by which you can have more of this world's goods.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) New interests of a recreational nature can now be very good for you so consider where you can extend your interests to make them a reality.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A special day for you to spend every spare moment with members of your own family making arrangements to see and enjoy them much more.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can be much more productive in your everyday affairs if you take some prominent persons into your confidence or even make them partners.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have some obligations to attend to that require the backing of those in power or authority in the world of action so cooperate with them.

East, West German teams meet in World Handball Championship

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Separate teams representing the former East and West Germany will compete in final rounds of the 10th World Women's Handball Championships Tuesday in what may be the last international sports competitions between athletes of the once divided country.

East and West German teams chosen before the Oct. 3 unification of Germany will face each other for the bronze medal and third place. The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia will play for the championship.

All 16 teams in the 10-day competition took a day off Monday to rest.

Under rules of the International Handball Federation, the top four teams at the championship will be offered places at the 1992 Olympic Games.

Officials said Germany would be assured one spot for the Olympics in Barcelona regardless of which team won the bronze medal.

The fourth and final slot will be given to the fifth-ranked team, to be decided Tuesday in a match between Norway and Austria.

The biggest controversy in the championships involved the 1988 Olympic gold medalist South Korean team, which lost all five games it played and ended up in 12th place.

Fans and some officials accused the players of deliberately losing games in a feud over funding and a lack of financial rewards for past performances, including winning the gold medal at the Asian Games in Peking in October.

Korean athletes are usually given money or pensions for excellence, but the handball team said it did not even receive thanks.

Korean national teams are highly competitive and are not known ever to have lost a world championship on purpose.

The players have not commented. Their coach said the team was "dispirited," citing lack of support.

"The South Korean women's handball team has been reduced to a paper tiger," wrote the newspaper Seoul Shinmun.

Korean newspapers quoted the head of the South Korean Handball Federation as saying he would resign at the end of the championships to take responsibility for the embarrassment the team's performance caused the country.

Kasparov requests postponement of 17th game

LYON, France (AP) — The 17th game of the World Chess Championship between Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov has been postponed from Monday to Wednesday at Kasparov's request.

The two Soviet grandmasters still are scheduled to resume their incomplete 16th game Tuesday. That game was adjourned after five hours Saturday and then again Sunday after nearly six more hours without a result after 88 moves.

Through the 15 completed games, they are tied with 7.5 points each.

They have had three draws in the French portion of the championship. They had 10 draws in the 12 games played in New York between Oct. 8 and Nov. 7.

The first player to reach 12.5 points wins the championship, but Kasparov would retain the title in the event of a draw.

Each player is allowed to request up to three postponements during the championship.

The postponement requested by Kasparov on Monday was his second, while Karpov has used one time-out.

"Maybe next year we'll even play on some out of date surface like grass," joked Gorman.

Even if forced to defend the cup on grass as Australia would prefer, the United States could produce a team that might well be favoured.

U.S. might boycott Pan Am Games

CHICAGO (AP) — The U.S. Olympic committee says the United States might not participate in next year's Pan American Games in Cuba unless approved methods for drug testing of athletes are used.

The committee, on the final day of a two-day meeting in Chicago, adopted a resolution Sunday stating its "grave concerns" about Cuba's lack of a laboratory, necessary equipment or trained technicians to perform the tests.

The Pan Am Games will be held in Havana in August.

The United States is urging the International Olympic Committee to arrange for athletes' urine samples to be flown to a properly equipped laboratory in North America, according to committee spokesman Mike Moran.

The committee prefers such an

approach to importing state-of-the-art urine analysis machines and qualified medical technicians for the games, Moran said.

He said the facility where the games are to be held does not have a laboratory in which drug tests can be performed.

"It's foolish to think that you can have a major athletic event like this without IOC-certified drug testing procedures," he said.

It's a risk for the athletes.

The implied message (of the resolution) is that the United States will not participate unless the proper procedures are used," he added. "I'm sure that's true of other countries, too."

Moran said the United States and many other countries fear athletes' drug tests could show "false positives" if the proper equipment isn't used.

In other matters, a group to

begin setting up an organising committee for the 1996 summer games in Atlanta was established.

For the 1992 summer games in Barcelona, Spain, NBC, a U.S.-based television network, paid \$401 million for the TV rights.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



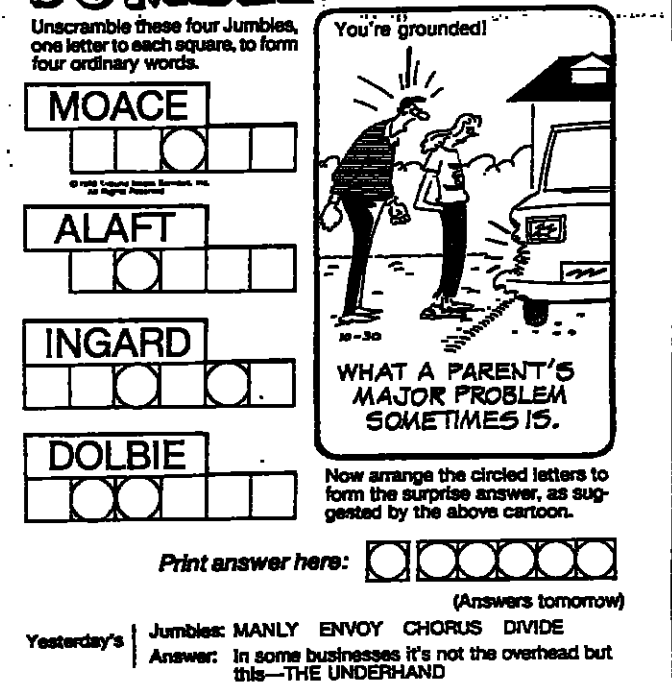
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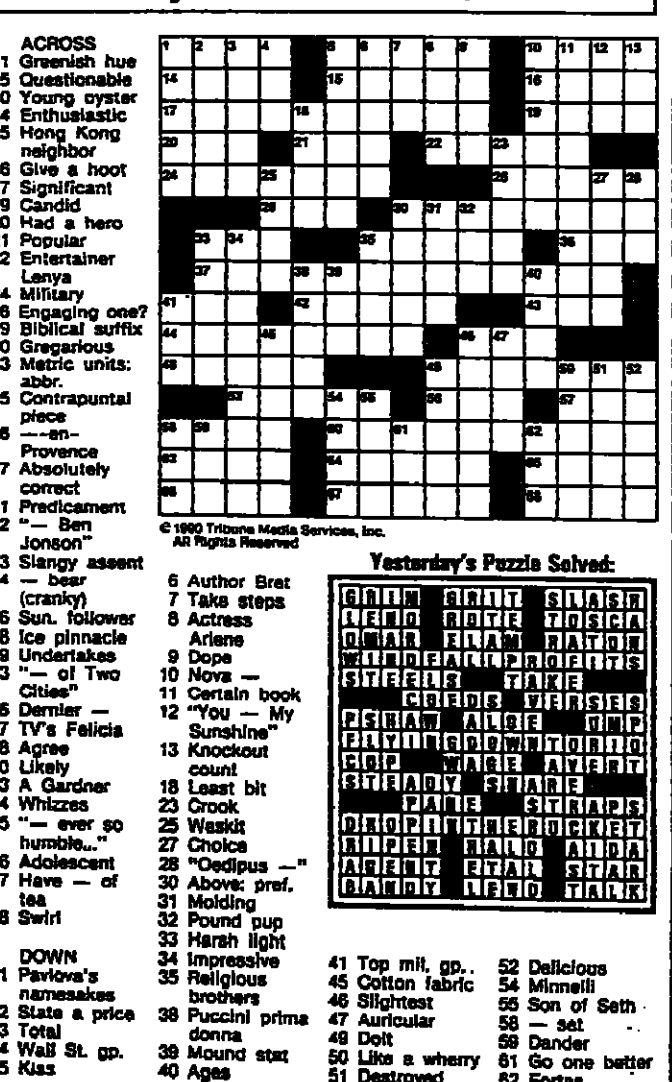
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JUMBLE



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♥ J 10
♦ A 2
♣ 7 6
♠ Q 5

EAST
♠ J 10
♥ 6 4
♦ J 10 9 3
♣ 10 8 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 7
♥ K J 9 8 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ A J 7

The bidding:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 1 Pass
2 Pass 4 1 Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Don't commit yourself to a line of play until you have found out as much as possible about the hand. What you don't know can harm you!

We are not enthralled with North's raise to two hearts. With a perfectly balanced hand and a queen of spades that rated to be a wasted value, a pass would have been more prudent. It's doubtful North's action would have made any difference to the final contract—four hearts was quite reasonable.

West led the king of spades and continued with the ace and another for East to ruff away dummy's queen. Declarer overruffed. West rose with the ace of hearts when declarer led a heart toward the table, then exited with a heart, leaving declarer to make the rest of the tricks.

There were three possibilities—either a 3-3 diamond split, a club finesse or dropping a doubleton queen of clubs. Before committing to a line of play, declarer cashed the remaining trumps, discarding a club from the table. Next came three rounds of diamonds, with West discarding a spade on the last round.

The king of clubs now reduced all hands to two cards. When declarer led a club from the board, East produced the ten. If you now decided to finesse, you have not followed the play closely. Declarer knew that East's remaining card was a diamond, so he shot up with the ace to drop the queen and land his game.

Toyota said studying truck plant in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Toyota, the giant Japanese vehicle manufacturer, is studying setting up a light truck factory in Algeria, a consultant said on Monday.

Malik Serai, general manager of Algeria International Consult, said it was carrying out a pre-feasibility study on the project for a potential Saudi investor, Youssef Abdul Latif Jamil, Toyota's agent in western Saudi Arabia.

The factory would be designed to assemble 100,000 Toyota pickup and light trucks a year, mainly

aimed at the agricultural market. Consultations were under way with potential Algerian partners. AIC, a private firm, was studying potential sites including Setif in eastern Algeria, Serai told Reuters.

Algeria is abandoning two decades of socialist central planning in favour of a market economy. Earlier this year it passed a law offering unprecedented incentives to foreign investors, including the possibility of 100 per cent foreign ownership.

ATT bid for NCR rejected

NEW YORK (R) — American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (ATT) has proposed a \$6 billion friendly acquisition of NCR Corp. but the company to cash register group rejected the offer as inadequate.

The stock-for-stock merger puts a value of \$90 on each share of NCR, the fifth biggest U.S. computer maker. ATT said in a statement on Sunday night that the offer price reflected an 88 per cent premium over the price of NCR stock on Nov. 7, the day before the deal was first rumoured.

New York-headquartered ATT said it was willing to negotiate all aspects of its proposal, including the price.

NCR, based in Dayton, Ohio, said in a statement that its board of directors had concluded the ATT offer was "grossly inadequate from a financial point of view," and not in the best interests of NCR's shareholders.

The company said its board had advised ATT that it would carefully review another "financially sound" proposal should ATT choose to submit one. "We believe that ATT cannot achieve its stated objective of combining the computer businesses of these two companies under NCR management

and the NCR name without the support and confidence of NCR management in ATT's integrity and sense of honour," NCR Chairman Charles Exley said in a statement.

"No ultimatum or demand will likely win that support or confidence, and no ultimatum or demand will intimidate the board of directors of NCR into doing a disservice to the company, its customers, shareholders and employees," Exley said.

Since Nov. 15, ATT has repeatedly expressed to NCR its interest in a negotiated transaction. The companies have exchanged letters, and their chairmen have had several conversations and made presentations to each other's boards.

Last Friday, NCR informed ATT that it was "prepared to enter into private discussions." But NCR refused to meet with either ATT or its advisers, ATT said in a statement.

ATT said it was disappointed, but hoped NCR would negotiate a merger that was of clear strategic benefit to both companies and offered full value to NCR shareholders.

ATT said on Sunday its proposal would remain open until the close of business on Wednesday.

U.S. to use oil reserves to maintain prices

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The United States will use its 600-million-barrel strategic petroleum reserves to maintain oil price stability in the event of armed conflict in the Gulf, a U.S. embassy official said Monday.

The official, who could not be named under embassy rules, was speaking after U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins held talks Sunday with his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Hisham Nasser.

Watkins arrived late Saturday for the talks on the oil market situation in light of the Gulf crisis with the kingdom which alone controls more than a quarter of the world's proven oil reserves.

Saudi official statements only mentioned that the two ministers discussed the world oil market and means of stabilising it as well as bilateral cooperation in the oil industry. No more detail was given.

Korea rejects ARAMCO offer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Energy and Resources Minister Lee Hee-il indicated Monday that the government will reject the Saudi Arabia Oil Company Saudi Aramco's plan to set up a joint-venture oil refining firm in South Korea.

Testifying before the national assembly, Lee said the government had yet to receive a formal application. But he said the government would act in accordance with its basic policy of not allowing new oil refineries, Korean or foreign.

The policy is designed to protect the existing domestic indus-

try, he added.

Last week, officials of South Korea's Ssangyong Oil Refining Co. said Ssangyong and Saudi Aramco had agreed on an equally owned joint venture oil refinery project in South Korea.

They said the proposed new firm, to be capitalised at \$700 million, would take all its crude oil — 175,000 barrels a day — from Saudi Aramco and sell its products in Korea and elsewhere in the Far East.

Ssangyong Oil Refining Co. is owned by the Ssangyong group and is among five local refinery operators.

Malaysian fund wins IDB prize

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (A) — The Islamic Development Bank on Monday awarded its prize for excellence in Islamic banking to the Malaysian Islamic Fund.

The fund, established in 1962, handles the savings of Malaysian Muslims and helps them make the pilgrimage to Islam's holy cities.

It now has more than a million depositors who represent one sixth of Muslims in Malaysia. They have deposited millions of dollars in savings with the fund.

The fund not only invests the savings of pilgrims for them but also takes care of them from the day they leave home until they come back from their journey to Saudi Arabia.

"The fund is an investment and a religious organisation which is a pioneer in its activities and should be a model for all Islamic countries to follow," the IDB said.

The annual award, consisting of \$20,000 plus a merit certificate, will be given to the

management board during the 15th conference of the IDB board of governors in Cairo March 5-6.

The IDB is an organ of the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference. OIC finance and economy ministers will attend the annual conference.

The IDB has another similar prize for the best research work in the field of Islamic economy, which this year went to Mohammad Anas Al Zarqa from Syria.

Zarqa, a graduate of Pennsylvania University with a doctorate in economics, is currently working as a lecturer at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah.

He has written many books on various aspects of Islamic economics including zakat or religious taxes, Islamic concepts of project management and other topics.

"His researches are deep, objective and accurate," the IDB said of Zarqa.

Japan economy slowing after 4-year surge

By Kunio Inoue
Reuters

TOKYO — Higher interest rates and sagging share prices are slowing Japan's booming economy after four years of surging growth, economists said on Monday.

"The economy is slowing down and likely is going through a mild adjustment phase by mid-next year," said Nobuyuki Saji, economist at the Nikko Research Centre.

But he expected consumer spending, bolstered by higher wages, will remain strong and help to keep the economy from sliding into recession.

Third quarter gross national product (GNP) data are likely to be released later this week or next, and many economists expect fairly strong growth for that period.

But after that, higher domestic interest rates and sharp falls in Tokyo stock prices began to cut into business investment — the engine of growth — and force the economy to shift into lower gear.

economists said.

A survey of economists by Reuters shows they expect Japan's GNP grew by a reasonable 0.8-1.4 per cent in July/September from the previous three months and by more than five per cent from a year earlier. It rose a preliminary 0.9 per cent in April/June from January/ March and 7.5 per cent from a year earlier.

For the entire fiscal year ending March 1991, economists predict the growth in GNP will likely top an inflation-adjusted five per cent for the fourth consecutive year, but will slow to three to four per cent in 1991/92.

They said the economy must have lost some of its steam after the July-September quarter because higher interest rates began to put a damper on corporate capital investment.

Higher interest rates, coupled with the continued falls in Tokyo stock prices, will make it harder for companies to raise funds and will thus dampen capital investment, economists said.

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announces its desire to sell a car: Chevrolet Blazer 4 x 4 1981. Sale will be conducted through sealed envelopes and within 10 days starting from this advertisement date. Customs duty unpaid. Car can be examined at the UNDP office — Shmeisani. UNDP has the right to reject any bid without giving reasons.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the British Ladies of Amman will be held on Wednesday 5th December at 10 a.m. at the Amra Hotel. Tickets for the B.L.A. ball to be held on Thursday 6th December will be on sale during the meeting. The December afternoon meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th December at 4 p.m.

Global trade talks open with pressure to end farm fight

By Sally Jacobsen

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — World trade officials opened a final round of global trade talks Monday with a blunt reminder that the economic health of millions is riding on the outcome of their bargaining.

"The world is expecting a great deal of you," Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens told the delegates from 107 nations attending the negotiating session of the Uruguay Round, the most ambitious trade talks ever.

"Failure would deal world trade stability a nasty blow and would seriously harm the world economy," he said.

Some 2,500 officials gathered to kick off their week of bargaining that has been threatened with failure by an acrimonious fight over cuts in government payments to farmers.

"The prosperity of millions depends on decisions that will be taken this week in Brussels," Martens said at the opening ceremony at the Heysel Palace, a vast exhibition complex on the outskirts of the Belgian capital.

The dispute pits the European Community and Japan against the United States, Australia and others.

Thousands of farmers, mostly Europeans, planned a march through Brussels on the opening day of talks to show their opposition to any move to trim their support payments.

"The Uruguay Round is in deep crisis," said Australian Trade Minister Neal Blewett, chairman of the Cairns Group of 14 farm-exporting nations.

"Agriculture is the linchpin of that crisis and unless it's unblocked, then the round is greatly endangered," he told a news conference Sunday.

The negotiations, which began in 1986 in the Uruguayan resort of Punta del Este, are designed to lower barriers to trade in 15 areas, including agriculture, textiles, manufactured goods and services, such as banking, transportation, telecommunications and construction.

But on the eve of the talks, officials stressed repeatedly that ending the fight over agriculture was key to successful conclusion.

"The impasse there is poisoning other parts of the round," said Blewett. "Negotiations in other areas are going to be difficult without some resolution there."

The United States, backed by Australia, Argentina, Brazil and others, wants the European Com-

munity to snip away much of its costly farm support system, making cuts ranging from 75 per cent to 90 per cent.

The 12-nation trading bloc, known as the Common Market, so far has refused to budge from its position of a 30 per cent cut in limited areas.

The United States, again joined by others, also wants Japan to lift its ban on rice imports.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter met with trade officials from the European Community and Japan but reported no progress.

"There is no tangible shift in position in either place at this stage," he told reporters at the community's Berlaymont headquarters. "But we should not conclude there will be no flexibility later in the session."

Blewett said, "we've got no indication... that the European Community's position indicates any flexibility at all."

Ray MacSharry, the community's top farm official, however, told reporters that "there is substantial common ground" in some areas of negotiation.

France and Germany have been the community's main opponents to further reductions. But there is speculation that the German government, which was

anxious about farm support in Sunday's elections, might give in some now that the balloting is over.

Blewett predicted that the farm issue will come to a head in the first two days of the conference.

On another dispute, officials reported some progress in an effort to write new rules for trade in various service industries such as banking and insurance.

Canadian Trade Minister John Crosbie said Canada, with the support of several other countries, would offer on Monday a proposal for removing barriers to trade in financial services. He said the measure has the support of the United States and the Common Market.

There is pressure to finish an accord quickly because U.S. President George Bush must get the package to the U.S. Congress by March 1 under legislation that prevents the lawmakers from scuttling the deal piece by piece.

The Uruguay Round is the eighth in a series of negotiating sessions designed to reduce tariffs and lower barriers to global trade.

The negotiations are sponsored by the general agreement on tariffs and trade, which was created in 1947 as a forum and an agreement to freer world trade.

Asia: Oil prices slide on Gulf peace moves

SINGAPORE (R) — Oil prices fell more than 50 cents in Asia on Monday due to a spark of hope that the Gulf crisis would be defused by envoys and war avoided.

U.S. President George Bush said on Friday he was willing to "go the extra mile" to seek peace in the Middle East, prompting

furious selling on New York's energy futures markets.

Trading in Asia was more hesitant due to doubts that the United States and Iraq could manoeuvre their way out of their firmly entrenched positions.

Bush proposed that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz visit Washington by mid-December

and that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker travel to Baghdad for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein by mid-January.

Iraq agreed and said dates and arrangements would be set when an official invitation reached Baghdad.

Britain's Brent blend, an international benchmark crude, was quoted here at \$28.50/\$28.65 a barrel for January cargoes compared with \$29.15 in New York on Friday.

Bush's proposal wiped more than \$4 off U.S. oil prices on Friday.

It was difficult to see how a compromise could be reached to allow a peaceful solution to the

Gulf crisis without either side losing face, dealers here said.

"The U.S. still says nothing is negotiable until Iraq leaves Kuwait, while Saddam only wants to talk about the Palestinians," said a Singapore-based trader for a U.S. investment house.

"The fact that they are going to talk is certainly positive for peace and negative for the market," he said. "But I don't think the market will go down much further from here."

The United States said the talks would not be negotiations but a last chance for Iraq to comply with United Nations resolutions.

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UP THE MILITARY

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

ROOF TOPS

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOM

Kamel Al Shinnawi, Ilham Shahin, Farouq Al Fishawi

APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m. Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

Nadia Al Jundi & Farouq Al Fishawi

DEATH SQUAD

Arabic

Show: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.

54 killed in S. African clashes

TOKOZA, South Africa (AP) — Police said Monday at least 54 people had been killed in black factional fighting when rival groups armed with axes, spears and guns clashed in black townships, looting and burning homes.

At least 24 black men were shot and hacked to death late Sunday and early Monday in Tokoza township, east of Johannesburg, in some of the worst factional violence in recent months, police said.

Fighting also erupted Sunday in Kaithehong, Tembisa and Sebokeng townships. Police said 47 people in all were killed in the Johannesburg area.

Elsewhere at least seven people were killed in weekend fighting in Natal province. Police said some 800 men armed with guns and knives fought near Pietermaritzburg in clashes between factions supporting the Inkatha Freedom Party and rival African National Congress.

Heavily-armed police and troops in armoured vehicles moved in to Tokoza Monday to halt the fighting. Police in armoured vehicles shepherded hundreds of Khosas armed with clubs, axes and spears, who marched through the area singing and brandishing weapons.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Law and Order Minister

Adriaan Vlok toured Tokoza Sunday night to try and help restore order. Police said the two men visited squatter areas hit by fighting, but gave no further details.

The fighting pitted Zulu supporters of Inkatha against Khosas and other blacks linked to the ANC. Police, political leaders and residents gave conflicting and vague accounts of how the fighting started, with each side blaming the other.

Police said a white man was "necklaced," or killed with a burning tire wrapped around his body, in Kaithehong, but gave no details on the incident. Very few whites have been hurt in the factional fighting that has raged in Johannesburg's black townships in recent months.

Hundreds of terrified men, women and children fled their homes after the fighting erupted in Tokoza and Kaithehong. There were reports of widespread looting.

Several homes in Tokoza were attacked and burned, their inhabitants backed to death with knives and clubs. Bodies were still lying on the ground around the burned out houses.

"The Zulus came in the night. They killed our people. We don't know why. They are killing us," said one frightened Khosa man holding a club.

Some residents claimed Zulus were being aided by armed whites, but could give no evidence. The ANC and other opposition groups have accused security forces of siding with Inkatha in the fighting.

But Zulu leaders claimed that several of their followers had been shot by police for no apparent reason. "They are not here as peacekeepers," said one angry Zulu in Tokoza.

Close to 1,000 blacks have been killed in factional fighting in Johannesburg townships since August. The fighting had subsided after September, but violence flared again in recent weeks, claiming dozens of lives.

More than 5,000 blacks have died since 1986 in Natal in factional fighting between Inkatha and ANC supporters.

The ANC and Inkatha both oppose apartheid, but disagree on how to fight it and on their vision for a further South Africa. Inkatha favours free enterprise, while the ANC leans more to socialist economic programmes.

The ANC has charged repeatedly that Inkatha is being used by the white government to create divisions among blacks. The government has denied the charges.

President F.W. de Klerk has promised to scrap apartheid and share power with the black

majority. Talks between the government, the ANC and other black groups on writing a new constitution are expected to begin next year.

Meanwhile, African National Congress President Oliver Tambo will return to South Africa next week after 30 years in exile, the ANC representative in Britain said Monday.

Mendi Msimang said Tambo, who has been in London undergoing rehabilitation after suffering a stroke, would arrive back home on Dec. 13. He may start his journey later this week, visiting one or two countries on the way.

Tambo, 73, who left South Africa in 1960 after the ANC was banned by the government, came to London in April this year from Stockholm.

De Klerk legalised the ANC in February this year and shortly afterwards released Nelson Mandela, now ANC deputy president, from 27 years in jail.

Tambo has been president of the ANC, South Africa's oldest anti-apartheid movement, since 1969. During many of his 30 years in exile, he was based in Lusaka, Zambia, where the ANC had its headquarters.

But he travelled widely, becoming a roving ambassador for the black nationalist cause.

Bush starts visit to Latin America

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — U.S. President George Bush opened a weeklong South American visit Monday at a time when U.S. concerns are turning from the cold war to economic cooperation in this hemisphere.

Bush's plane arrived at dawn Monday in this Brazilian capital after an overnight flight from Washington.

His itinerary also includes Uruguay, Chile, Venezuela and Argentina.

Bush seemed in good spirits as he arrived at dawn at a military air base here. He smiled and shook hands as he was greeted by Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek and an air force honour guard. He later was driven to Planalto Palace, where Bush was officially welcomed by President Fernando Collor de Mello. Later, Bush was scheduled to deliver a speech to a joint session of the Brazilian Congress.

Bush and Collor opened their meeting by talking about the impact on world oil prices and the global economy after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Bush mentioned the figures \$1.5 billion, presumably talking about the impact that President Vaclav Havel told him the occupation was having on Czechoslovakia. "That's why, when people say to me that this can go on an on, I say, 'no,'" Bush said.

Leaders in all five nations were preparing warm welcomes for Bush, while demonstrators, promised to stage protests at each stop.

At each stop he is expected to hail the evolution to democratic rule in Latin America and to promote his vision of a hemisphere-wide free trade zone. After a decade in which U.S. hemispheric policy was dominated by the political upheaval in Central America, Bush now has the luxury of having what U.S. officials like to call a "positive agenda" in his dealings with Latin America.

Skeptics wonder about the usefulness of his visit at a time of crisis in the Gulf, but Bush feels it is important to seize on what he regards as a moment of a unique opportunity in hemispheric relations.

Bush was to have made the visit in September but postponed it because of the Gulf situation.

Each of the countries on Bush's itinerary except Venezuela began the last decade under military rule and now has an elected president. Venezuela has had stable, democratic government since 1958.

Argentina in state of siege after army revolt

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem declared a state of siege Monday after rebel officers seized the army headquarters in central Buenos Aires at dawn, presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo said.

An army statement said around 50 armed men took control of the headquarters and were in partial control of several other military units in the city. It said shooting took place but gave no details of casualties.

Local radio reported two men killed and five injured in the shooting. There were also unconfirmed reports that rebel coast guard officers had seized their headquarters in the port of Buenos Aires.

The army statement said the situation was normal elsewhere in the country and that orders had been given to retake the buildings held by the rebels.

By 8 a.m. no troops could be seen around the army headquarters. Reporters at the scene said they were waved back at gunpoint by three rebel officers who came out of the building and raised the Argentine battle flag, saying only "for the fatherland" before re-entering.

Politicians at government house said Menem had promised to act energetically to deal with the rebellion, the fourth since April 1987. An emergency cabinet meeting had been called. Congressman Miguel Angel Toma told local radio he understood the rebels were linked to retired Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, who led an uprising in December 1988.

Seineldin is currently serving 60 days detention at a military base after issuing an open letter to Menem in which he warned of a potentially explosive situation within the armed forces.

The three previous army rebellions involved groups of disgruntled junior officers.

The officers were opposed to

the army high command and unhappy at the way in which military personnel were brought to trial for crimes committed during the war against leftist subversives under the 1976-1983 military dictatorship.

They also had been criticised for their role in the 1982 Malvinas (Falklands) war against Britain.

The White House had no immediate comment on the incident in Buenos Aires. U.S. President George Bush arrived in Brazil Monday to start a one-week visit to South America that includes a stop in Argentina Wednesday and Thursday.

A second army statement said there had been casualties but gave no further details. It added that the situation at the four army corps based in the interior of Argentina was normal.

Army Commander General Martin Bonnet had set up headquarters at a mounted grenadiers base in the suburb of Palermo near one of the garrisons which had been seized.

Residents of Palermo, a fashionable area three kilometres from the city centre, said they were awakened by repeated bursts of machinegun and semi-automatic weapons fire coming from the nearby garrison.

Live television coverage showed heavily-armed loyal troops outside the Palermo garrison. At one point two rebel soldiers stretched on the ground to surrender to armed men in civilian clothing.

The two soldiers were rushed away with pistols at their heads. An ambulance went into the base and left shortly afterwards, sirens blaring. Loyal troops checked the inside but reporters were unable to approach before it sped off.

Central streets were blocked off causing rush hour traffic chaos. Lorries trying to enter the port were turned back by armed coast guards, although it was not clear if they were loyal forces or rebels.

Ershad orders military to crack down on protest

DHAKA (R) — President Hossein Mohammad Ershad ordered security forces to deal harshly with protesters as Bangladesh reels from weeks of political unrest and the imposition of emergency rule, braced itself for an indefinite strike from Tuesday.

"Those damaging vehicles and resorting to other terror tactics in the name of a political campaign are miscreants," he told members of the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles Sunday.

"Deal with them harshly and

save the country," he said in a speech broadcast on state television.

Twenty-one opposition parties and the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami have called on all workers to go on strike for eight hours a day from Tuesday.

The call has been backed by students, the main force behind the opposition parties, as well as industrial and transport workers, teachers, lawyers and doctors.

They all want Ershad, a former general who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982, to resign.

Italian film wins top European award

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — The Italian film *Porte Aperte* was named European Film of the Year during presentations of the Felix Awards, the European version of the Oscars. Britain's Kenneth Branagh received the Actor of the Year award for his role in *Henry V*, which was named young European Film of the Year. Carmen Maura was named top actress for her role in the Spanish film *Ay Carmela*. *Porte Aperte*, a political thriller set in 1930s Italy, was directed by Gianni Amelio and produced by Angelo Rizzoli. The Felix Awards were presented in Glasgow, one of its last events as European City of Culture in 1990. Swedish director Ingmar Bergman headed the jury, which included actresses Deborah Kerr and Jeanne Moreau.

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